Bengaluru Tuesday, June 30, 2026 Pages 16 Vol 79 No 180 ₹7

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The Power of Good

Bengal Bill proposes 12-month detention without trial

Suvendu assures law will not be misused

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June rain likely to be 3rd lowest in 126 years

At 92.1 mm, far short of long period average of 165 mm

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

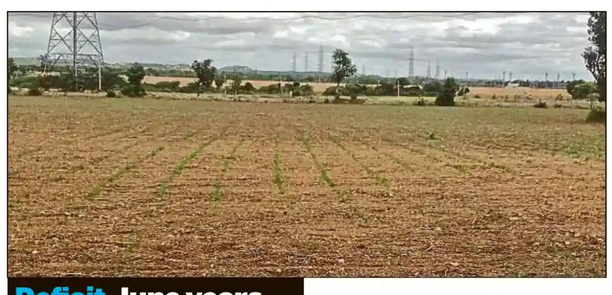
India is likely to experience its third worst June rainfall in 126 years with the nation recording only 92.1 mm of monsoon showers till Monday – a deficit of 42%.

Since 1901, there have been only four years when the June rainfall was less than 100 mm, with the worst being 2009 when the country received just 87.5 mm of rainfall followed by 1905 when the figure was 92.3 mm. This June can very well be the next one when the month ends on Tuesday.

According to India Meteorological Department's records, the June rainfall was less than 100 mm in only two other years – 2014 (93 mm) and 1926 (97.4 mm). Three other years with poor June rainfall were 1902 (109 mm), 1912 (106.8 mm) and 1923 (101.7 mm).

The long period average June rainfall, according to the IMD, is over 165 mm.

This year, the south west monsoon arrived late and was later stalled for nearly 11 days. It has still not reached a large portion of central, north and western India that includes agriculturally significant states like Uttar Pradesh, a large part of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat.



Deficit June years

2009	87.5 mm
1905	92.3 mm
2014	93 mm
1926	97.4 mm
1923	101.7 mm
1912	106.8 mm
1902	109 mm

The states where the monsoon has arrived but rainfall remains significantly low include Maharashtra, Odisha, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Telangana.

Delhi missed its scheduled date with monsoon on June 27 with meteorologists saying that the national capital may get showers in the first week of July.

However, the monsoon revival in the first week of July may not sustain for long, according to a veteran weather forecaster.

With the fear of a strong El Nino developing, the IMD last month downgraded its long range monsoon forecast to 90% of average rainfall between June and September. Warnings of a potentially insufficient monsoon have raised alarm among farmers and policymakers.

Despite the poor show in June, meteorologists said it would be premature to press the panic button as one should also take rainfall distribution into account.

▸ Rain, Page 4

Drinking water crisis in Bagalkot

With the southwest monsoon failing to bring adequate rains, water levels in the Krishna, Malaprabha and Ghataprabha rivers in Bagalkot district are declining steadily, triggering a drinking water crisis in several villages that depend on these rivers.

Northeast flood situation grim

Heavy rains triggered floods by and landslides in Arunachal Pradesh while the situation was grim in North Assam's Dhemaji district, where one person went missing while over 41,000 people remained affected on Monday.
Details on Page 8

Give vacant land for parking space, get tax waiver

Draft policy aims to utilise idle private properties in B'luru

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

Owners of vacant plots in Bengaluru could soon receive property tax exemptions of up to 35 years if they convert their land into a public parking facility.

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and the city traffic police are preparing a new parking policy that seeks to boost off-street parking through private participation while simultaneously making on-street parking more restrictive and expensive.

On Monday, the Urban Development Department (UDD) held a high-level meeting with senior officials from different agencies, including the GBA, to finalise what is being called the Greater Bengaluru Area Parking Rules, 2026. Once the details are fine-tuned, the government plans to issue a draft notification seeking comments from the public.

M Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner, GBA, said there would be many more rounds of meetings before the rules were finalised. "We did have a meeting with all departments. There was a suggestion to fine-tune some of the rules," he told *DH*.

Proposed sops

- Facility with 200 passenger car units (PCUs) gets 35-yr property tax exemption
- Multi-level parking structures of same capacity to get 25-yr exemption
- Smaller multi-level or automated parking qualify for 15-yr waiver
- Surface-level parking lots will receive a five-year exemption

Going by the draft parking rules, the GBA is proposing one of the biggest incentive programmes to create parking infrastructure in the city by encouraging private landowners to open vacant sites for public parking instead of leaving them idle. What's more, the bigger the parking facility, the longer the tax exemption.

The idea of providing tax exemptions was proposed on the grounds that owners stand to gain a lot more if their land is utilised for commercial purposes. However, the policy does not fix the parking fee tariff that the owners can levy.

Under the proposal, owners developing an automated parking structure with a capacity of at least 200 passenger car units (PCUs) will receive a 35-year property tax exemption. Multi-level parking structures of the same capacity will receive a 25-year exemption, while smaller multi-level or automated parking facilities will qualify for 15 years. Surface-level parking lots will receive a five-year exemption.

After the exemption period ends, owners will only have to pay service charges, the draft parking policy states.

▸ Parking, Page 4

Ahead of SIR, govt to issue residential certificates

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Minister D K Shivakumar announced on Monday that his government will issue permanent residential certificates to help citizens pass through the Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

"Whoever wants a residential certificate will get it both online and offline," Shivakumar told a news conference.

Accordingly, the revenue department issued guidelines on issuing permanent residential certificates.

"The permanent residential certificate shall constitute proof of permanent residence in the state of Karnataka," the revenue department stated in the new guidelines. Citizens can apply for the permanent residential certificates online through the Seva Sindhu portal. They can also apply at Atal Jana Snehi Kendras or Nadakacheris, Bengaluru One, Karnataka One and Grama One centres.

The government is also setting up facilitation centres in all wards and booths. "There will be 49,320 centres.

▸ Certificates, Page 4

Eligibility for PRC
One or more of following conditions valid

- Birth in Karnataka
- Residing in K'taka for not less than 10 yrs
- 10 yrs of education in state till Class 12
- Father, mother, guardian or spouse living in K'taka
- Ownership, possession or occupation of house in K'taka
- Entry in electoral roll, Aadhaar, ration card, revenue records or other govt records
- Applicant or either parent has served in govt or public institution for not less than 7 years

Karnataka SIR: Door-to-door voter enumeration begins today

BENGALURU, DHNS

House-to-house enumeration of voters as part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Karnataka will begin on Tuesday, with more than 5.54 crore electors set to be covered between June 30 and July 29.

The exercise, through which the Election Commission aims to update and "purify" the electoral rolls, will see 59,050 Booth Level Officers (BLOs) fan out across the state to distribute and collect enumeration forms from every registered voter.

A draft voters' list will be published on August 5.

Chief Electoral Officer V Anbukkumar said the Election Commission has printed 11 crore pre-filled enumeration forms, each carrying a QR code, voter details and photograph. The forms will be distributed to all electors whose names appear in the electoral rolls updated as of June 16, 2026, irrespective of whether they have already been mapped in the voter database.

"All voters in the current electoral roll will receive the form. Those who fill the form, paste a recent photograph and submit the signed enumeration form before July 29 will be included in the draft electoral roll to be published on August 5," Anbukkumar said.

The enumeration forms can also be filled online through the ECI Voters Portal and the ECINET mobile application from June 30 onwards.

▸ SIR, Page 4

FAQs

1 Who will distribute enumeration forms?
BLOs.

2 Who will receive the enumeration form?
All voters whose names appear in Karnataka's electoral roll as of June 16, 2026.

3 Is form submission mandatory?
Yes. Electors who do not submit the enumeration form during the prescribed period will not be included in the draft electoral roll.

4 Can forms be filled online?
Yes. Through the voter portal and ECINET mobile app from June 30.

5 Do voters need to submit documents now?
No. No documents are required during the enumeration stage.

6 Who can sign the form?
The elector or any adult member of the family.

7 What if nobody is at home?
The BLO will revisit. Voters can also contact the BLO (EC website has BLO name and contact number) and submit the form later on their own.

8 What do the stickers mean?
Violet sticker: Form delivered.
Red sticker: House locked; next visit date and BLO contact details provided.

9 What happens if discrepancies are found?
The ERO may issue a notice after August 5 seeking clarification or documents. A notice does not mean deletion from the voter list.

10 What about first-time voters?
Persons turning 18 on or before October 1, 2026, can apply through Form 6 for inclusion in the final electoral roll.

11 What is the last date to submit the enumeration form?
July 29, 2026.

'Kick him out': Purported clip of DVS seeks Vijayendra's exit

BENGALURU, DHNS: An audio clip in which former chief minister D V Sadananda Gowda is purportedly heard asking one "Pradeep ji" to "kick out" BJP state president B Y Vijayendra sent shockwaves across the saffron party's state unit on Monday.

D V Sadananda Gowda

However, Sadananda Gowda has denied allegations against him.

"No comments about this. Till now, I haven't answered about any audio or video that isn't mine. Even going forward, I won't say anything."

Gowda said he would not complain about the issue, adding that he would clarify about the issue only if the national-level leaders spoke to him.

"Now he's (Vijayendra) completing three years of his president's term by November. Why should we create one more confusion for two months? Another two months we should push this and send him out... Then his term will also be over and no one can complain against the removal of the president, and even here also, there may not be any confusion inside the party," the audio clip says.

▸ BJP, Page 5

CRASHLANDS

People gather after a trainer aircraft crashlanded in a field in Kasganj, Uttar Pradesh, Monday. The pilot is safe, according to DGCA. PTI

EV POLICY

Delhi to register only e-autos from 2027 & e-bikes from 2028

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Only electric two-wheelers will be registered in Delhi from April 2028, while there will be no registration of non-electric auto-rickshaws in the national capital from the first day of 2027, as per Rs 15,000-crore new EV policy approved by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta-led state Cabinet on Monday.

In order to incentivise people to transition to cleaner fuel-powered vehicles, the Delhi government plans to provide Rs 30,000 subsidy to all electric two-wheeler purchasers and Rs 50,000 subsidy to all three-wheeler buyers in the first year of the implementation of the policy.

Briefing media, Gupta said the new policy is likely to be implemented from July 1, 2026, and will remain effective till March 31, 2030.

In the second year of the implementation of the policy, the subsidy on two-wheelers will be reduced to Rs 20,000, while on three-wheelers it will be cut to Rs 40,000. In the third year, it will be further lowered to Rs 10,000 and Rs 30,000 for two-wheelers and three-wheelers, respectively.

The Delhi government is expected to spend Rs 15,000 crore on subsidies, incentives and creation of electric vehicles-related infrastructure over the next four years.

SCOPE OF THE POLICY

₹15,000 crore worth subsidies, incentives, creation of EV infra over 4 years

- Likely to be implemented from July 1, 2026

Incentives

Type of vehicle	1st year	2nd year	3rd year
EV 2-wheeler	₹30,000	₹20,000	₹10,000
EV 3-wheeler	₹50,000	₹40,000	₹30,000

N1 category EV truck: Up to **₹1 lakh** incentive

BS-IV vehicles scrapping incentive

- ₹10,000 for 2-wheelers
- ₹25,000 for 3-wheelers
- ₹50,000 for N1 trucks

100% exemption on on-road tax & registration fees for EV cars with price of up to Rs 30L

The Gupta-led government has also outlined incentives for four-wheelers and commercial trucks.

Buyers of N1 category electric trucks will receive a purchase incentive of up to Rs 1 lakh.

Owners of BS-IV four-wheelers or below standard who scrap their vehicles and switch to electric vehicles will get a scrapping incentive of up to Rs 1 lakh. Scrapping incentives for vehicles under BS-IV emission norms will be around Rs 10,000 for two-wheelers, Rs 25,000 for three-wheelers and Rs 50,000 for N1 trucks.

Electric cars with an ex-showroom price of up to Rs 30 lakh will be granted 100% exemption on road tax and registration fees.

Gupta said the incentives will reduce the price gap between EV and non-electric vehicles.

▸ EV policy, Page 5

Quickly

Rape-murder: Death sentence in fast trial

A court in Pune on Monday awarded death penalty to a 65-year-old man for raping and murdering a three-and-a-half-year-old girl at a village in Bhor tehsil of the district two months back.
Details on Page 9

Languages: CBSE issues guidelines

The CBSE has issued revised guidelines on the implementation of its three-language policy, clarifying that students currently studying in Classes 7, 8 and 9 will not need to sit for board exams for the third language.
Details on Page 8

Yasin Malik charged in 1990 murder case

Thirty-six years after the abduction and murder of nurse Sarla Bhat, a Kashmiri Pandit, the Jammu and Kashmir State Investigation Agency (SIA) has filed a chargesheet against five members of the JKLF, including its former chief Mohammad Yasin Malik.
Details on Page 9

Pleas question state's gig workers' law

Petitions filed in the Karnataka High Court have challenged the constitutional validity of the Karnataka Platform Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Act, 2025.
Details on Page 3

Govt lifts fuel sale restrictions from July 1

The Centre has announced withdrawal of emergency restrictions on the sale of petrol and diesel to commercial and industrial consumers starting July 1.
Details on Page 8

Pvt energy players: Cabinet to take call

Hinting that the Karnataka may block the entry of private players into the power sector, CM D K Shivakumar said the subject would be discussed in the Cabinet meeting. Energy Minister KJ George said privatisation was not an option.
Details on Page 4

The homestay where the incident happened.

Woman found dead in Nandi Hills homestay; lover in hospital

BENGALURU, DHNS: A woman in her mid-20s was found dead under suspicious circumstances at a homestay near Nandi Hills, while her lover allegedly attempted suicide by consuming pills.

Police are probing the death as murder based on a complaint.

On Monday, the homestay caretaker found Sai Surabhi, 25, and her 28-year-old lover, Sanjeeth Ali P P, lying motionless. Surabhi had a noose around her neck while Ali was unconscious. Some tablets and a diary were recovered from the room.

Police said Ali had checked into the homestay on Saturday but the caretaker had no idea when Surabhi arrived. When Ali failed to check out on Monday, the caretaker opened the room. A senior police officer said Surabhi likely died by hanging but the rope was cut.

▸ Suspicious death, Page 5

BMRCL: MD's leave unrelated to tech snags

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) on Monday clarified that there was no connection between its managing director's leave and the recent operational incidents involving the metro.

Responding to the report, 'BMRCL MD goes on leave', published in these columns on June 29, the corporation said the managing director had planned his leave nearly a month in advance for purely personal reasons. It added that the leave had been duly approved by the competent authority well before the report was published.

"The leave has absolutely no connection whatsoever with the recent operational or maintenance-related incidents," the BMRCL said in a statement.

The corporation also noted that while the report itself stated there was no confirmation that the events were linked, "the manner in which they have been presented is capable of leading readers to infer a connection where none exists".

1,500 km Bengaluru roads may be off-limits to street vendors

Footpath clearance drive across 5 city corporations begins tomorrow

BENGALURU, DHNS

A street vendor in Malleswaram. DH FILE PHOTO

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) plans to notify around 1,500 km of arterial, sub-arterial and major roads across the city as non-vending zones, while allowing street vendors to operate on other roads as long as they do not obstruct pedestrians.

The decision was taken at a virtual meeting chaired by Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Monday.

Ahead of the 'Safe Footpath Campaign', which begins across the five city corporations on Wednesday, the minister directed officials to launch a footpath encroachment clearance drive in compliance with Supreme Court directions and the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act.

Gowda said Bengaluru has nearly 15,000 km of roads, of which about 1,500 km should be identified and notified as non-vending zones.

Vendors should be permitted to conduct business on the remaining roads, provided they do not obstruct pedestrian movement or inconvenience the public.

He instructed officials to first identify roads where the clearance drive will be undertaken, followed by awareness campaigns for shop owners and residents.

Notices must be issued before enforcement action is initiated.

Officials were also directed to repair footpaths on the identified stretches by replacing damaged slabs, fixing kerbs and carrying out other civil works to ensure safe and accessible pedestrian movement.

The meeting was attended by Urban Development Department Additional Chief Secretary Tushar Girinath, GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao, commissioners of the five city corporations, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Karthik Reddy, and other senior officials.

Street vendors' union opposes eviction drive

A street vendors' union has urged the government to halt any eviction drive against hawkers and instead fully implement the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, arguing that vendors cannot be treated as encroachers without following the due process prescribed under the law.

In a statement issued on Monday, the Karnataka Pragatipara Beedhi Vyaparigala Sangha alleged that civic authorities were preparing to evict vendors before completing the mandatory survey and issuing vending certificates.

The union argued that illegal parking, electricity transformers, utility boxes, construction debris, commercial establishments extending onto pavements and other encroachments — not street vendors alone — were the causes of footpath obstruction. It urged authorities to act against all forms of encroachment instead of targeting hawkers.

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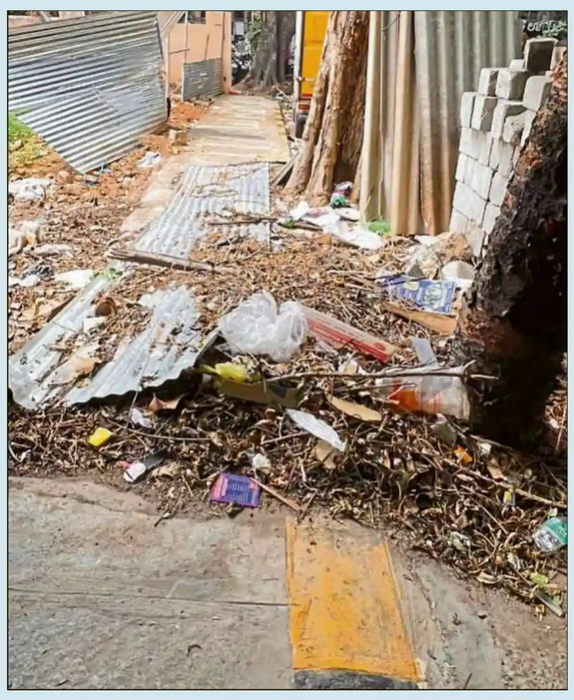
Almost every locality in Bengaluru has a street corner or vacant plot that has turned into an informal garbage dump. These black spots are not merely an eyesore; they are a threat to public health and the environment. Deccan Herald and Prajavani invite citizens to share details and photographs of such sites for publication in these columns, in order to help push for timely action from the authorities.

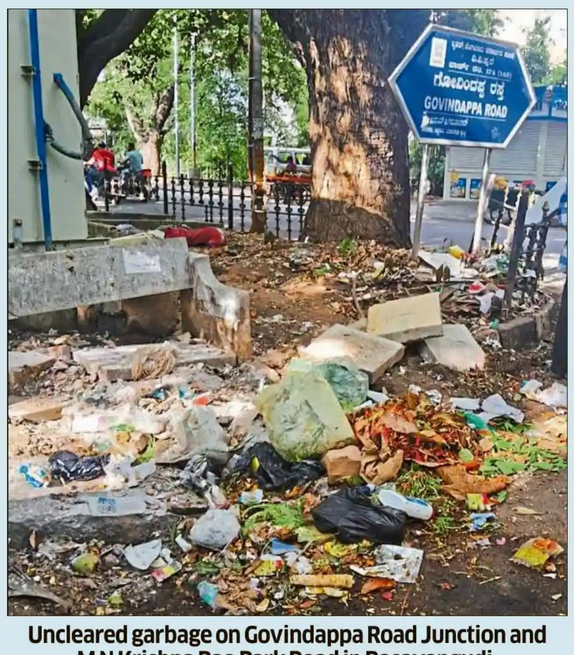


Household waste, construction debris, and an overflowing garbage bin have blocked the footpath for over a year, creating unhygienic and unsafe conditions for local residents. K V PRADEEP, 19TH MAIN ROAD, 4TH T BLOCK, JAYANAGAR

Uncleared garbage under the Hennur flyover, opposite Ananda Bairavi Apartments. A RESIDENT

Persistent garbage dumping next to the KR Puram flyover. A RESIDENT

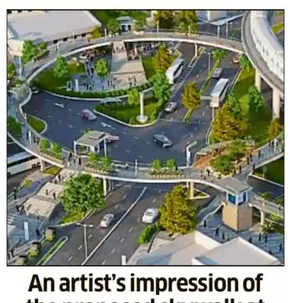
Garbage accumulation on 3rd Cross, NGEF Layout, Nagabhavi. A RESIDENT



Uncleared garbage on Govindappa Road Junction and M N Krishna Rao Park Road in Basavangudi. ACHUT KRISHNA PANDURANGI

Banashankari skywalk scrapped for flyover, alleges MP

BENGALURU, DHNS



An artist's impression of the proposed skywalk at Banashankari Junction.

Bangalore South MP, LS Tejasvi Surya, on Monday accused the state government of "neglecting" pedestrian safety and putting infrastructure projects on the back burner.

He alleged that the long pending proposal for a skywalk connecting the busy Banashankari Metro Station with the BMTC bus terminal had been abruptly shelved.

Taking to X, he addressed the chief minister, claiming that despite a groundbreaking ceremony a few months ago, no work had begun.

Surya said the pedestrian infrastructure project, which had been a persistent demand for five years, was reportedly dropped following an outside intervention.

"Now I am told the skywalk has been shelved because some contractor has suggested building a flyover instead," the MP stated.

The junction between Banashankari Metro Station and the BMTC terminal is one of the busiest transit hubs in southern Bengaluru, with massive footfall as commuters scramble across heavy traffic to switch between metro and bus services.

During his visit to the spot on Monday, Surya was shown footage of a woman who died while crossing the road.

"Today, when I visited the spot, commuters showed me a video of an elderly woman who lost her life while trying to cross this road just a few weeks ago," Surya wrote.

"She died on the spot," he added, noting that the incident had failed to move the government into action.

Bannerghatta Road patch repairs fail within days, says BNP; raises concerns

Civic body says work is temporary, ahead of full white-topping

BENGALURU, DHNS

SRIKANTH NARASIMHAN
General Secretary, BNP

"Bannerghatta Road had become a textbook example of poor execution of public works, adding that quality had begun deteriorating within days of completion.

The Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP) on Monday alleged that the recently completed road repair work on Bannerghatta Road was of poor quality despite repeated public scrutiny.

Rejecting the charge, the Bengaluru South City Corporation (BSCC) said it had taken up only patchwork repairs as comprehensive development work would take longer.

BNP General Secretary Srikanth Narasimhan said in a statement that Bannerghatta Road had become a "textbook example" of poor execution of public works, adding that quality had begun deteriorating within days of completion.

The party said it had monitored the project from the time the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) announced the repairs and tracked progress until the June 20 deadline.

BNP leaders also visited Bannerghatta Road and recorded a video from the site, capturing sections where, they claimed, the repair work had started to crumble.

The party said several stretches remained incomplete, workmanship was substandard, and portions of the asphalted spots had already begun peeling off.

Th BNP also alleged that residents were forced to clean up garbage along the road after civic authorities failed to clear waste from the area.

A senior corporation official said repairs were carried out because the road had become unmotorable.

"We have milled the potholes, added wet mix aggregates and a bituminous layer on top. Since the grant was limited, only patchwork was taken up," he explained. "There is a plan to white-top the road and a proposal is getting ready."

He said engineers from the corporation had inspected the spot after the BNP had raised the issue.

"We found that the patchworks were intact. We have also used a mechanical sweeper to clean the area, too," the official added.

Rs 2,000-cr road fund sparks row; BNP questions allocations

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government's Rs 2,000-crore road fund allocation has drawn criticism from the Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP), which alleged diversion of funds for non-road works.

The allocation list shows Congress constituencies Chamarajpet, Gandhi Nagar, Pulakeshi Nagar, Shivajinagar, Vijayanagar, Shanthinagar, Hebbal, Govindaraja Nagar, BTM Layout, Sarvagnanagar and Byatarayanapura have been allocated Rs 100 crore each, while allocations for BJP constituencies range between Rs 40 crore and Rs 80 crore.

Reacting to the allocations, the BNP alleged that instead of prioritising pothole repairs, improving road surfaces, managing rainwater runoff and tackling waterlogging, funds are being earmarked for works such as MLA offices, nameboards and multipurpose buildings.

It claimed that several roads in good condition have been included for fresh works while badly damaged stretches remain neglected. It urged the government to ensure that the funds are utilised strictly for improving Bengaluru's deteriorating road infrastructure and called for greater transparency in the execution of the projects.

Constituency	Grant
Chamarajpet	100
Gandhi Nagar	100
Pulakeshi Nagar	100
Shivajinagar	100
Vijayanagar	100
Shanthinagar	100
Hebbal	100
Govindaraja Nagar	100
BTM Layout	100
Sarvagnanagar	100
Byatarayanapura	100
Anekal	45
Padmanabha Nagar	80
Yeshwantpur	75
Yelahanka	60
KR Puram	60
RR Nagar	60
Dasarahalli	60
Mahadevapura	60
Bommanahalli	60
Bangalore South	60
Mahalakshmi Layout	40
Malleswaram	40
CV Raman Nagar	40
Rajajinagar	40
Chickpet	40
Basavanagudi	40
Jayanagar	40
Total allocation: **Rs 2,000 cr**	

(Figures in Rs Cr)

PSI arrested for alleged custodial abuse

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Kothanur police have arrested a sub-inspector from the Amruthahalli police station for allegedly assaulting minors in custody and forcing one minor to perform a sexual act on another.

The incident occurred a few months ago. It came to light after a video of the abuse surfaced and went viral on social media on Sunday.

A senior police officer said that the accused officer had brought minors for questioning in connection with a murder case. However, instead of keeping them at the police station, he allegedly took them to a private location and assaulted the minors.

He also allegedly made recordings on his mobile phone.

Based on instructions by senior officials, a suo motu case was registered against the sub-inspector under the POCSO Act. He has been taken into three days' police custody for further interrogation.

Train stoppage at Yelahanka

BENGALURU, DHNS: Train number 11014/11013 Coimbatore-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus Express will now have an additional stoppage at Yelahanka.

Chikkaballapur MP K Sudhakar requested the railways to consider providing stoppages for more trains at Yelahanka and expediting land acquisition for the Chikkabanavara-Gollahalli and Soladevanahalli Road Over Bridge works.

Starting June 29, train number 11014 arrives at Yelahanka at 4.41 pm and departs at 4.43 pm.

Starting June 30, train number 11013 arrives at Yelahanka at 7.28 pm and departs at 4.43 pm.

Driver suspect in bizman abduction for Rs 1.09 cr

BENGALURU, DHNS: Police in northern Bengaluru have arrested five people who allegedly threatened, assaulted, abducted and robbed a businessman of Rs 1.09 crore two weeks ago.

The five are Chetan, Surya, Basava, Soma and Vinaya.

As the complainant's driver, Chetan leaked information about a large amount of cash being moved. He also drove the car in which his boss, 41-year-old RI Shivashankar, was abducted.

Shivashankar, who runs the D-360 security agency in Yeshwantpur, was waylaid, assaulted and taken to a forest near Kuduregere Colony, off Kunigal Road, on the night of June 15.

The gang robbed him of Rs 74 lakh, which he had purportedly collected from a hotel in Yelahanka. They also forced him to contact his wife and instruct her to hand over another Rs 35 lakh kept at home. In total, he was robbed of Rs 1.09 crore.

Shivashankar had reportedly collected the money from his associates in Andhra Pradesh to start a company named ANRC (American Nuclear Research Centre).

Police registered a case of abduction and robbery and launched an investigation. They found that VV Puram officers had booked Shivashankar last year in a cheating case involving antique tumblers.

On June 20, police arrested one of the suspects near Bagepalli, Chikkaballapur, with Rs 4 lakh in cash and a car. Based on his information, they apprehended the other suspects. Investigators recovered Rs 85.50 lakh of the stolen cash, a toy pistol, three mobile phones, and two cars. Efforts are underway to trace the remaining suspects.

The probe revealed that all the suspects were friends and had plotted the robbery for easy money since none of them had a stable job. Three of the 10 are history-sheeters.

Investigators suspect the cash Shivashankar had collected originated from another offence and are probing its source.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Natranga: 'Neeragannadi', a musical play, KY Narayanaswamy; Directed by B Suresha, Ranga Shankara; 7.30 pm; Entry fee: Rs 200

Samyukth: World Fusion, music instrumental originals by Sai Shiv, Keshav Mohankumar and team; Bangalore International Centre; 7 pm to 8.45 pm.

517th birth ceremony of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda, Sadhana Award Presentation: Awardees: DK Shivakumar, Chairman: SM Jayakar; Jnanabharathi, Bangalore University; 11 am.

Prof M J Kamalakshi Birth Anniversary Commemoration: Inauguration: MS Murthy; Karnataka Chitrakala Parishad; 11.30 am.

BCU Festival: Guest: Vinay Rajkumar, Megha Shetty; Chairman: B Ramesh Gyana Jyothi Hall, Dr Manmohan Singh Bangalore City University, Dr Ambedkar Veedi; 2.30 pm.

Vrikshamaate Saalumarada Thimmakka Vedike and 114th Birthday Celebration Ceremony: Inauguration by Krishna Byre Gowda, Chairmanship: H Marappa, Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar; Vrikshamaate Saalumarada Thimmakka Circle, New Town Club, Yelahanka; 5 pm.

CULTURAL

'Sadarame' Folk Drama Performance: Inauguration: BS Manjunathaswamy, Chairman: KV Nagarajamurthy, Direction: Ma. Bhaskar, Music: VN Ashwath; Paraksha Social and Cultural Service Organisation; Ravindra Kalakshetra, JC Road; 4 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with light rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	30.0°C
Minimum	21.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	NIL
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	89%
Sunset (Jun 30)	6:50 pm
Sunrise (Jul 1)	5:57 am
Moonrise	6:30 pm
Moonset	5:06 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

WEATHER UPDATE

Bengaluru sees light showers after sunny spell

BENGALURU, DHNS

After nearly two weeks of unusually bright sunshine for June, Bengaluru witnessed light showers on Monday evening.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the city recorded 5.1 mm of rainfall between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm, while HAL Airport received only traces of rain.

So far this June, Bengaluru City has received 71.5 mm of rainfall, while HAL Airport has recorded 116.6 mm. The city has received just over 60% of its June average rainfall of 110.3 mm, whereas HAL Airport has already crossed its monthly average of 101.8 mm, as per IMD data. The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has recorded 128 mm of rainfall.

Despite forecasts of a weaker southwest monsoon this year, Bengaluru has seen similarly dry Junes in the past decade, including 25.1 mm in 2017 and 58 mm in 2025. The city's wettest June was in 1996 with 228.2 mm of rainfall, while HAL Airport recorded its highest in 2016 at 249 mm. KIA's wettest June was in 2020 with 182.3 mm.

The IMD has forecast generally cloudy skies with light rain in Bengaluru till the morning of July 1. Wind speeds of 30–40 kmph are likely in some areas, with temperatures expected to range between 21°C and 31°C.

Final seat matrix for engg courses out; has 1,000 more than draft

BENGALURU, DHNS: The government finally approved and provided the final seat matrix for engineering courses to the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) on Monday.

Compared to the draft seat matrix, the number of engineering seats has increased by 6,003. Under government quota, 81,044 seats are available this year.

When the draft matrix was released, based on which KEA had started the counselling process, there was an increase of 5,000 seats under government quota. At least 1,000 seats have been added in the final matrix. The draft seat matrix was published on June 3.

To avoid disruptions in the counselling schedule, following the delay in receiving the final matrix, the KEA had resumed the seat allotment process with the available matrix and was planning to release the mock allotments on July 6.

With the final matrix available now, KEA officials said these seats would be added and students would be allowed to mark options.

However, KEA is yet to receive the seat matrix for pharmacy courses from the Department of Medical Education.

Seat matrix (govt quota)

- Engineering: 81,044
- Veterinary: 366
- Agriculture: 3,915
- Bachelor in Physiotherapy: 2,062
- BSc (Nursing): 35,362
- Allied health sciences and BPO: 7,404

Home-alone woman found murdered, no signs of forced entry

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 40-year-old woman living alone was found murdered in her rented house in Muniyappa Layout in south Bengaluru on Sunday night.

The victim was found in a semi-nude condition.

Police suspect the assailant was known to her and are awaiting the forensic report to determine whether she was sexually assaulted.

Krishna Barman, a native of West Bengal, worked as a cook in the city and lived alone in a small rented room in Hongasandra.

The murder came to light around 9.30 pm when the house owner discovered her body.

Based on preliminary findings, police suspect Krishna was strangled. She also had external injuries, a senior police officer said.

Investigators believe the assailant was someone known to the victim, as there were no immediate signs of forced entry into the room.

Police have registered a case of murder and are examining the victim's recent movements, phone records and acquaintances to establish the motive behind the crime.

Lokayukta police search excise offices

BENGALURU, DHNS: Close on the heels of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) raiding the premises of a senior excise official in the state, the Lokayukta police on Monday launched search operations at excise offices in Bengaluru.

The Lokayukta police conducted searches at the offices of eight excise deputy commissioners in the city and one in Bengaluru Rural district. "The purpose of the search is to check for negligence and corruption in DC excise offices, in the disposal of renewal applications, handling of violation cases and other official work. We will compile our findings and submit a report to the Lokayukta," they told *DH*.

Sports Dept yet to share list of eligible candidates for quota: KEA

300 students have submitted documents for verification

BENGALURU, DHNS

More than 300 students seeking seats to various professional courses under the Sports Quota are staring at the possibility of losing out on them owing to the delay on the part of the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports in sharing the candidates' verified documents with the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA).

The department has not responded to repeated pleas made by the KEA to share the list of verified candidates who are eligible to claim seats under the Sports Quota. The KEA sent a fresh reminder to the department on Monday as well.

Meanwhile, responding to a letter sent by the department seeking documents of 70 candidates, the KEA firmly established that it was not responsible for furnishing candidates' documents.

Pointing out that it was a counselling authority, the KEA added, "It is the responsibility of the Sports Department to provide the list of eligible students by verifying their documents. Anyhow, we have shared the contact information of the students for your reference."

More than 40 days ago, officials from the Sports Department collected the documents of 366 students seeking seats under the sports quota. "Why is the department delaying verification?" asked KEA officials.

The Sports Department deviated from established practice by collecting and taking the documents of the candidates to its office, pointed out KEA officials. "All these years, Sports Department officials sat at the KEA office and verified the documents on the spot. There are several quotas such as NCC, Rural and Kannada-medium, and officials of the concerned departments verify documents on the spot. This year, the Sports Department officials carried documents to their office. These are certificates pertaining to participation of candidates at the state or national level in sports listed by the department," a KEA official said.

The KEA has warned the Sports Department of proceeding with its counselling schedule and announcing the results of the mock seat allotment without the Sports Quota.

One of the affected students expressed dismay over the delay in the verification of documents. "I represented the state in swimming, but cannot claim a seat under Sports Quota since my documents are not verified. In the absence of verified documents, we will be forced to claim seats under the general category," said the student.

Another student who was at the KEA office for the document verification drive recalled that the other departments verified the documents on the spot.

In all, 158 seats across professional courses have been earmarked for candidates seeking seats under the Sports Quota. While more than 2,000 students initially applied for these seats, only 366 students turned up with documents for the verification process.

'Quota-wise list published on KEA website'

All departments, other than Sports and Youth Empowerment, have submitted the final list of eligible students who can claim seats under specific quotas. We have published the quota-wise list on the KEA website. In the absence of a final list, students are unable to enter their options in the ongoing seat allotment process. We have sent another reminder to the Sports Department, asking for the list to be shared by June 30, Prasanna H, executive director, Karnataka Examinations Authority, said.

'Process to be completed in one week'

M N Anucheth, Commissioner for Youth Empowerment and Sports, said, "We have completed document verification of 280 students and 70 are pending for want of some additional documents. We will be completing the process this week."

Stop closure of Goa's Kannada schools: KDA chief

BENGALURU, DHNS:

Kannada Development Authority (KDA) chairman Purushottama Bilimale has urged the Centre and the Karnataka government to intervene immediately to prevent the closure of Kannada-medium schools in Goa, alleging that the move, reportedly being undertaken in the name of implementing the National Education Policy (NEP), undermined the constitutional rights of linguistic minorities.

In separate letters addressed to Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Bilimale expressed concern over reports that the Goa government was preparing to shut down Kannada-medium schools that had been functioning for decades.

Bilimale said the reported remarks of Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant that "students must adapt to changing circumstances" were disappointing and ran counter to India's commitment to "unity in diversity."

He said, for several decades, thousands of Kannada-speaking families residing in Goa and along the Karnataka-Goa border had been sending their children to Kannada-medium schools. Karnataka, he said, had consistently extended educational support to these students when they pursued higher education in the state.

"The implementation of NEP should not weaken this long-standing tradition of linguistic harmony and educational cooperation between neighbouring states," he said.

In his letter to Shivakumar, Bilimale urged Karnataka to immediately dispatch a high-level delegation comprising ministers to Goa to hold discussions with Sawant and that state's education minister.

Police arrest 17, including three Nigerians in drug bust; seize Rs 25-cr narcotics

CCB's Anti-Narcotics Wing alone accounted for Rs 23 cr of the haul

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru police, including the Central Crime Branch (CCB), seized narcotics worth Rs 25.23 crore on the open market and arrested 17 suspects in operations across the city.

Among those arrested were three Nigerian nationals, eight from different states and six residents of Bengaluru. The three foreigners were identified as Ambomo John Victor alias Wisdom Ikechukwu, Chime Ndubuisi Moses, and Karikri Emos.

Police conducted the raids on different dates over the past few weeks.

The seizures included 10.306 kg of MDMA, 127.302 kg of ganja, 3.314 kg of hydro ganja, 300 e-cigarettes, 90 hookah flavours, 300 hookah pots, and other banned items.

Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh with officials of the CCB's Anti-Narcotics Wing at a press conference on Monday. PHOTO: BCP

Of the recoveries, the CCB's Anti-Narcotics Wing (ANW) alone seized 10.270 kg of MDMA and 2.44 kg of hydro ganja, worth Rs 23 crore on the open market.

"We have seized over Rs 200 crore worth of narcotics this year alone," Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said at a media briefing on Monday.

Singh announced a cash reward of Rs 1 lakh for the CCB team led by Assistant Commissioner of Police (ANW) LY Rajesh.

Officials from the ANW and Subramanyanagar, Madiwala, Rajajinagar, Whitefield, Tilaknagar, Yeshwantpur, and Indiranagar police stations raided locations across the city on different dates.

During interrogation, the suspects confessed that they had procured narcotics at low prices from unidentified suppliers in foreign countries, other states, and within the city, and sold them at higher prices to the public and college students for illegal profits.

"They also admitted to manufacturing tobacco products of various brands in violation of the provisions of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA)," a police statement said.

From the suspects, police recovered seven mobile phones, one car and six two-wheelers. Efforts are underway to trace the origins of the substances and their suppliers. The suspects were produced before a court and remanded to judicial custody.

M'luru, cities within 100 km of B'luru to get quadruple rail lines

BENGALURU, DHNS

Union Minister of State for Railways V Somanna said on Monday that quadruple railway lines would be developed to cities within a 100-km radius of Bengaluru, as well as between Bengaluru and Mangaluru.

He was speaking after inaugurating a newly constructed road overbridge near Yelekeri in Channapatna taluk.

Infrastructure Development Minister M B Patil urged the railways to develop quadruple lines from Bengaluru to Tumakuru, Mysuru, Hindupur via Gauribidanur and Kolar.

Responding to these demands, Somanna said the survey for the Bengaluru-Tumakuru quadruple railway line had been completed and the tendering process would begin shortly. The project is expected to be completed within two years. He also announced a survey for the proposed Bengaluru-Mysuru quadruple line.

Somanna said a direct rail link between Bengaluru and Kolar would be provided by extending the existing four-track railway line beyond Whitefield, with the railways funding land acquisition.

Patil proposed a parallel road and railway corridor between Sakleshpur and Gundya to improve connectivity. Somanna agreed that a quadruple railway line between Bengaluru and Mangaluru was necessary.

Somanna also promised to consider requests to double the Tumakuru-Chitradurga-Davangere new railway line.

Responding to Patil's request, Somanna said a Vande Bharat Sleeper between Bengaluru and Vijayapura was expected to commence within the next four months. He added that the special train currently operating twice a week between Bengaluru and Vijayapura would be made a permanent service and minor issues on the route would also be addressed.

On their way to Channapatna, Somanna and Patil inspected the ongoing works of the underbridge at Ramohalli near Kumbalgodu.

Petitions in HC question state's gig workers' law

BENGALURU, DHNS: Petitions filed in the high court have challenged the constitutional validity of the Karnataka Platform Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Act, 2025, and allied rules.

The petitions were filed by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), Zomato and Blinkit's parent company Eternal Ltd, Zepto, Swiggy, Urban Company and Valmo Transportation, Meesho's in-house logistics marketplace. They are yet to be listed.

The petitioners challenged the Karnataka Platform Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Rules, 2025, as well as the notification constituting the Karnataka Platform Based Gig Workers Welfare Board and the government order of February 12, 2026,.

The petitioners argued that the Code on Social Security, 2020 (COSS), enacted by the union government, comprehensively provides for identification of gig workers, formulation of welfare schemes, aggregator contributions and the regulatory framework for implementation.

Yet, the state has enacted the Karnataka Platform Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Act, creating substantially similar welfare structures, imposing additional financial liabilities on aggregators and establishing parallel regulatory mechanisms, they noted.

The petitioners said the state's enactment directly conflicts with the central code, resulting in operational inconsistencies and attracting the doctrine of repugnancy under Article 254 of the Constitution.

"Once Parliament has occupied the legislative field relating to social security for gig workers, the state cannot establish an inconsistent parallel statutory regime," the petition stated.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

BANGALORE - MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR PROJECT

The Public is hereby informed that, the toll fee for the Peripheral Road and Link Road component of BMIC Project are revised as per Toll Concession Agreement with Government of Karnataka Dated: 04/09/2000, initial Toll Notification No PWD 40 CRM 2008, Dated: 18/12/2008 and NECE letter Ref: No. NECE/11/636 to PWD, GoK Dated 22/11/2022, revised rates are with **effect from 1st July 2026.**

Sl. No	Section	Length in KMs	Car	Bus	Truck	LCV	MAV (per Axle)	Two-Wheeler
			Amount in Rupees					
1	Hosur Road to Bannarghatta Road	8.74	72	215	141	83	143	33
2	Bannarghatta Road to Kanakapura Road	6.79	53	171	108	55	110	17
3	Kanakapura Road to Clover leaf Junction	4.36	39	105	66	44	61	11
4	Clover leaf Junction to Mysore Road	3.88	36	94	55	44	61	11
5	Mysore Road to Magadi Road	9.55	77	226	154	94	149	33
6	Magadi Road to Tumkur Road	7.48	61	176	116	66	116	17
7	Link Road	8.10	83	220	149	88	165	25

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June rain likely to be 3rd lowest in 126 years

Rain, From Page 1

"If you look at the states where the monsoon has reached, the rainfall is good so far. Also, the ground water and reservoir situation is not so bad because of last year's excess rainfall," K J Ramesh, former director general of meteorology at IMD told *DH*.

Ramesh said though 2015 was a strong El Nino year, food grain production was short by just 12 lakh tonnes with the monsoon season ending with nearly 14% deficiency. A positive Indian Ocean Dipole – a temperature see-saw between the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal – countered the ill effects of the El Nino to some extent. In 2015–16, India experienced a food grain production shortage of 11.82 MT or around 4.5% compared to the government's target.

This time, the Agriculture Ministry has identified 315 vulnerable districts.

Pvt players in power sector: Cabinet to decide, says DKS

CM to oppose privatisation in return for poll support

BENGALURU, DHNS

Hinting that the government may block the entry of private players into the power sector, Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Monday said the subject would be discussed in the upcoming Cabinet meeting.

Addressing the employees of the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL), he said he alone could not make a decision and it was important to bring it before the Cabinet. However, he said he was of the opinion that the law permitting private players into the energy sector was skewed.

"KPTCL and Escoms have laid power lines over the last hundred years and the government has supported the process. Now, if private parties want to come and take advantage of it by providing connections, it is unfair," he said.

Energy Minister K J George said privatisation was not an option and noted that the state's energy department was strong and capable of delivering reliable power supply to consumers.

"Our government stands with our employees. Appropriate directions have already been taken on the privatisation issue, and accordingly, Escoms have filed objections before KERC. We are in no way inferior to any private company. We will respond positively to demands of employees and officers. In the coming days, the matter will be discussed in the Cabinet," George said.

Chief Minister D K Shivakumar is felicitated at a programme organised by the Joint Association of Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Employees' Union at the Palace Ground in Bengaluru on Monday. PTI PHOTO

KPTCL employees have been opposing the privatisation of power sector, saying it could lead to job losses and affect social welfare schemes.

Shivakumar assured the workers that he was with them and that he would support them.

The opposition comes days after Tata Power Company Limited applied to the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) for licences to distribute electricity across Karnataka.

Give-and-take policy

Shivakumar said he would support the employees opposing privatisation, asking them to support him in the 2028 polls in return.

He said it was the BJP government which brought in the law and employees did not protest it then.

"I only follow a give-and-take policy. Caring and sharing is what I believe in. I will support your cause (against privatisation) if you promise to support me in the 2028 polls. If you forget your promise, I will have to adopt Vajpayee government's way of looking at things (privatisation)," he said.

High Court quashes Rs 20K interim maintenance to higher-earning wife

Wife, earning Rs 1.64L a month, seeks Rs 1.11L from husband drawing Rs 57,000

BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka has set aside a trial court order directing a man to pay interim maintenance to his wife, observing that courts are required to award maintenance, either interim or final, only when it is shown that the wife has no financial sources to maintain herself according to the husband's standards.

"When the wife is financially sound and in case, where the income of the wife is more than that of the husband and where no other liabilities are found on part of the wife, like looking after the children, courts should not be inclined to pass an order granting maintenance on the ground that women are required to be maintained by men or wife is required to be maintained by her husband," Justice Chillakur Sumalatha said.

The husband filed the petition challenging the order of a Mysuru court dated December 19, 2025, directing him to pay Rs 20,000 as interim maintenance to his wife. The court passed the order after the wife filed an application against her husband and his family under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act. She had sought Rs 1,13,515 per month for her sustenance and Rs 50,000 towards litigation costs.

Challenging this order, the husband claimed that the marriage had taken place in 2024 and they lived together for only two months. It was submitted that as per TDS, the wife earns a monthly salary of Rs 1,64,285, while the husband's salary is only Rs 57,000.

The wife argued that she is her parents' only child, and though her earnings are around Rs 1 lakh per month, she is obligated to clear the debts incurred during the marriage.

Justice Sumalatha noted that no material was produced by the wife giving details of the loans and that the trial should have concluded about the entitlement for interim maintenance only after discussing the earnings of both the husband and the wife.

"Only because a woman, more particularly a wife, files a petition invoking the provisions of Domestic Violence Act or the provisions of Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act or the provisions contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, where the right to claim maintenance is recognised, the courts cannot straight away pass an order awarding some amount towards maintenance payable by the husband," Justice Sumalatha said, adding that the observations made in the order shall have no bearing on the final disposal of the case or any interim applications to be filed claiming maintenance due to change of circumstances.

Create public parking space, get tax waiver

Parking, from Page 1

However, the incentives come with conditions. The parking facility must operate for at least 250 days a year and at least 12 hours a day, maintain a minimum parking capacity, share real-time parking data with the GBA and be used exclusively for public parking. Mixed commercial or residential use will not qualify for tax benefits.

Among other major proposals, the policy has proposed ending free public parking across the city, except for bicycles and designated auto-rickshaw stands, while introducing minimum parking charges based on road category. On the busiest Category-A roads, cars will pay at least Rs 80 an hour for on-street parking.

Residents may also have to purchase parking permits for vehicles parked on residential streets, a proposal that was mentioned even in the Parking Policy 2.0 released in March 2020. Annual permit fees have been proposed at Rs 15,000 for hatchbacks, Rs 20,000 for sedans and Rs 25,000 for SUVs, with visitor parking also set to become chargeable.

The draft further seeks to prohibit on-street non-residential parking within 150 metres of metro and suburban railway stations initially, with the restriction proposed to be gradually expanded to 500 metres after adequate off-street parking is created. It also proposes 'No Tolerance Zones' on major arterial roads where parking violations will be strictly enforced.

The draft also strengthens enforcement by authorising parking operators to issue violation notices and, with police approval, tow or clamp vehicles parked illegally. Parking operators will be treated as public servants under the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, while all parking revenue will be maintained in a separate account and reinvested in parking infrastructure, footpaths, bus shelters and other mobility projects.

Tiff over crackers escalates into clash

HANGAL (HAVERI), DHNS: A trivial row over the bursting of crackers escalated into a fight between two communities in Naregal in the taluk on Monday. As many as eight people were left injured in the altercation.

During the annual procession of the full-moon festival, one Lohith Kurubara lit a firecracker in the space between the Naregal GP office and the mosque. Khwaja Baashasaab Goundi objected to crackers being burst in the vicinity of the mosque and questioned Kurubara. Goundi hit Kurubara with a stick.

Kurubara's family and friends went to Goundi's house. Goundi hurled the stick with which he beat Kurubara at those who had come to his house, leaving five injured.

Rain intensifies in coastal districts, parts of Malnad

Heavy rain forecast for U-K, orange alert issued

BENGALURU, DHNS

Heavy rains continued to pound coastal districts and parts of Malnad for the second day on trot, on Monday.

The coastal half of Uttara Kannada, including Karwar, Bhatkal, Honnavar and Kumta taluks has been experiencing heavy intermittent rains, coupled with squally winds with speeds ranging from 30 to 40 kmph.

The India Meteorological Department has forecast heavy rains in the region for next three days, sounding an orange alert till July 2.

Uttara Kannada Deputy Commissioner K Lakshmipriya has asked people staying in low-lying areas and close to river banks to move to safer places in view of heavy rain for the next three days. The deputy commissioner has warned the fishermen not to enter the rough sea for fishing.

After a prolonged break, rains resumed in Udupi district on Monday, bringing cheer to farmers. After a steady drizzle till afternoon, rains picked up pace in the evening.

The first proper rain of the season exposed the civic apathy in Udupi town. The showers left many roads in Udupi town and the Ambalpady and Karavali bypasses flooded, causing grave hardship to motorists.

Karkala, Kundapur, Brahmawar, Hebri, Kaup and Byndoor also received heavy showers, along with gusty winds.

Many parts of Dakshina Kannada, including Mangaluru city, received rains on the intervening night of Sunday and Monday. A huge tree came crashing down on a bus shelter near St Agnes College in Mangaluru. The bus shelter and the compound wall were damaged in the incident.

A makeshift bridge across a stream in Belthangady taluk has gon under floodwaters.

The areas lying in Malnad in Chikkamagaluru district, including Sringeri, Koppa and NR Pura, witnessed spells of heavy rains on Monday. The water levels in Tunga and Bhadra rivers have gone up considerably.

Kodagu district received moderate rains throughout the day on Monday. With the intensity of winds gaining pace, rainfall is expected to intensify in a day or two in the hilly district.

Many parts of north and south interior Karnataka are experiencing light showers for the past two days.

Water level in Tunga river goes up following copious rain in its catchment areas, in Sringeri on Monday. DH PHOTOS

Students take shelter from rains under an umbrella on KR Market Road in Davangere. The city received light showers on Monday.

Farmers, whose land was acquired for IIT Hassan 20 years ago, petition CM

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Monday assured farmers affected by the long-pending land acquisition for a proposed Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) project in Hassan that the state government would honour court orders and pursue a legally sustainable resolution to their grievances.

Representatives from seven villages, including Doddahonnenahalli and Kachanayakanahalli, met the chief minister at Vidhana Soudha to press for clarity and compensation after nearly two decades of uncertainty. They complained that the acquisition, initiated about 20 years ago for an IIT that was ultimately established in Dharwad, had expanded from an initial 334 acres to 1,057 acres and was allegedly used for purposes far removed from the original project.

"I will not deliver one kind of justice to farmers in Bidadi and another to farmers in Hassan. The government stands firmly with farmers. Nothing gives me greater satisfaction than ensuring more money reaches their hands," he told the delegation.

Farmers said notices to collect compensation arrive repeatedly but payments and the promised developed residential sites have not materialised.

DH Classifieds

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Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **M. FIYAZ KHAN,** residing No. 10, 4th Cross, B Cross, Gandhi Colony, Ejipura, Bengaluru- 560047, have changed my name to **FIYAZ KHAN** vide affidavit dated 29-06-2026 before notary Meer Hassan, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called **FIYAZ KHAN** only

CHANGE OF NAME
We, **Shais Abdulla Cheeda** and **Arshiya Taranum,** residing at # 58, 2nd Cross, 8th Main Road, LIC Colony, Jayanagar 3rd Block, Bengaluru Urban-560011, have changed our minor Son's name from **RUHAN MUSA CHEEDA** to **MUSA SHAIS CHEEDA** vide affidavit dated 29-06-2026 before notary L Gopalakrishna, Bengaluru.

I, N SHARVESH RAM Residing at #64, ground floor, 17th 'D' main road Koramangala 6th block, Bengaluru- 95 have changed my name as SHARVESH RAM N vide affidavit dated 27/06/2026 Before Notary K.H.Jagadish Bengaluru

Ahead of SIR, govt to issue residential certificates

Certificates, from Page 1

These centres will help citizens," Shivakumar said. Shivakumar said citizens who have obtained caste certificates can download them for use during SIR.

"About 5.5 crore citizens have been given valid caste certificates. These includes 2.54 crore OBCs and 2.94 crore SC/STs. All of them can download their certificates digitally. Booth-level agents (BLA) can also help people obtain these certificates," Shivakumar said.

Shivakumar said citizens should compulsorily fill up enumeration forms that booth-level officers (BLO) will distribute. "Starting Tuesday till July 29, BLOs will come home and give you a form. BLOs will come to your house three times. On August 5, the draft electoral rolls will be out. If you don't submit your form, you are going to lose your vote. There will be complications," he said.

Shivakumar warned citizens against losing their voting rights. "The right to vote is the right to live," he said. "In West Bengal, an order has been issued to verify and delete all ineligible ration beneficiaries based on SIR. Similar measures are being taken by other states. If you lose the right to vote, you will lose government benefits," he added.

Students take out a march to create awareness on SIR, in Karwar on Monday. DH PHOTO

Karnataka SIR: door-to-door voter enumeration begins today

SIR, From Page 1

Election officials clarified that any adult member of the family can sign and submit the form on behalf of household members. In cases where residents are unavailable during the BLO's visit, electors can independently submit the completed form later.

BLOs have been instructed to make at least three visits to every house. Two colour-coded stickers will be used during the exercise. A violet square sticker will indicate that the enumeration form has been delivered, while a red round sticker will be affixed to locked houses. The red sticker will mention the date of the next visit and the BLO's contact number, enabling residents to seek assistance or collect forms.

Officials stressed that no documents will be collected during the enumeration phase. However, voters must retain the BLO-signed acknowledgement copy of the form. Only electors who submit duly filled enumeration forms within the stipulated period will be included in the draft electoral roll.

The BLOs will digitise the collected forms and the system will check for logical discrepancies such as mismatches in names, age, gender, relationship details, spelling variations, absence of corresponding records from the last intensive revision in 2002, or unusual family mapping patterns.

"Where anomalies are detected, Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) will issue notices after publication of the draft roll. A notice does not mean deletion of a voter. It is only a communication seeking clarification or supporting documents to rectify any anomaly," an election official said.

In such cases, BLOs will serve notices and collect responses and documents for ERO verification. Political parties' Booth Level Agents (BLAs) will also receive daily lists of notices issued to assist voters. Election officials said of the 5.54 crore electors, around 5.07 crore (91.61%) had been mapped while 46 lakh electors remain unmapped in the state. Unmapped voters can fill the enumeration forms and BLOs will assist in tracing corresponding records from the 2002 Special Intensive Revision for progeny mapping and verification.

Citizens who attain the age of 18 years on or before October 1, 2026, the qualifying date for the revision, can apply for inclusion in the electoral roll by submitting Form 6 along with the prescribed declaration and supporting documents. Their names will be considered for inclusion in the final electoral roll scheduled for publication on October 7, 2026. New voters can collect the required form from the BLOs.

Voters can submit any of the 12 documents, including Aadhaar and passport, listed by the poll panel for the ERO verification.

IN NUMBERS

5.54 cr Total electors		1.88 cr Total households	336 Assistant Electoral Registration Officers
59,050 BLOs	7,556 BLO Supervisors	224 Electoral Registration Officers	
31 District Election Officers and four Additional DEOs		1,15,112 Booth Level Agents appointed by political parties	

TIMELINE

June 30 - July 29 House-to-house enumeration by BLOs

Aug 5 Draft electoral roll publication

Aug 5-Sept 4 Claims and objections period

Aug 5-Oct 3 Notice phase and disposal of claims

Oct 7 Final electoral roll publication

HOW TO FILL THE FORM

- **Top row is pre-filled with QR** code and your photograph. Paste a current photograph.
- **Fill the details of elector** if your name is listed in the electoral roll of the last SIR (2002) (Take BLO's help to locate your name in SIR list)
- **Else, fill the right hand side** column too with details of relative (father, mother, grand father or grandmother) whose name was in 2002 SIR. For AC number. Part number and Serial Number take BLO's help.
- **Fill the remaining columns** and sign and submit to the BLO.

Siddu sidelined?: It happens, says Satish

BENGALURU, DHNS: Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi on Monday suggested that former chief minister Siddaramaiah should not let himself get 'sidelined'.

Satish was replying to a question on Siddaramaiah being sidelined by D K Shivakumar's government.

"Sidelining happens in every party. Someone is pushed behind in order to move ahead. We must keep speed. Otherwise, we'll miss the train. That's politics," Satish said.

"If you stay at home, you won't catch the train." Satish said he had asked Siddaramaiah several times to match the pace of politics.

"You (media) should ask Siddaramaiah why he's not running to catch the train," he said.

Satish, however, said Siddaramaiah was capable of doing his politics even if he was confined to his native Mysuru.

SIR: No reply from EC to our objections, says Priyank

'None should be disenfranchised for spelling mistake'

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Election Commission has not responded to objections raised by the Congress government on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Karnataka, Home Minister Priyank Kharge said on Monday.

The SIR is scheduled to commence in the state from Tuesday.

"The Cabinet has already conveyed in writing 8-10 objections to the Election Commission. But it hasn't replied. Even the chief electoral officer (CEO) hasn't answered," Priyank said.

Priyank said the government has sought clarity on the definition of 'logical discrepancy' and the legal basis for the exclusion of citizens from the electoral rolls.

"We've also stated that there must be tribunals to clear confusion. Nobody should get disenfranchised due to a spelling mistake," Priyank said.

Priyank clarified that the government is not against SIR. "We're not saying that SIR shouldn't be done. SIR is the right of the Election Commission. More importantly, providing a hygienic voter list is the EC's responsibility," he said. "But the way SIR was done in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and West Bengal, the poor were deprived of their rights," he said.

PRIYANK KHARGE
Home minister

"While we've been raising awareness, we must look at it legally. If you're excluding citizens using an AI programme, one must know who has audited it? How does it work? Nobody knows.

Priyank said the government expected answers from the Election Commission before SIR started in Karnataka.

"While we've been raising awareness, we must look at it legally. If you're excluding citizens using an AI programme, one must know who has audited it? How does it work? Nobody knows," Priyank said.

The minister said 89 lakh people were removed from electoral rolls. "They couldn't approach the tribunals. A retired Supreme Court judge resigned from the tribunal saying it'd take four years. When there's so much confusion, we need answers," Priyank said, adding that he would discuss the SIR with Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and decide the next steps.

Hit by infighting, state BJP yet to get its act together

SUJAY B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

With less than two years left for the 2028 Legislative Assembly election, the BJP is still grappling with infighting and disgruntlement, and is struggling to take on the governing Congress.

The shocking cross-voting on June 18 during the MLC polls has further exposed fault lines within the BJP. As many as 11 BJP and JD(S) MLAs cross-voted, while one BJP MLA cast an invalid vote.

Even otherwise, the party's lack of unity has been evident right after the 2023 polls.

The saffron party took time to kickstart its campaign, taking nearly six months to appoint B Y Vijayendra as the state president, which was widely seen as conceding the prominence of B S Yediyurappa's family in a bid to secure the BJP's electoral prospects.

However, Vijayendra — a first-time MLA — has not been universally accepted. A section led by the now-expelled MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal was vocal against Vijayendra.

Former deputy chief minister K S Eshwarappa, also an extreme Hindutva proponent and a critic of the BSY family like Yatnal, was also expelled.

While Vijayendra loyalists refer to his "youth" and "financial prowess," his electoral performance has raised many questions.

Since 2023, the BJP has lost all five bypolls against the Congress. While it outperformed the Congress in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, it won only 17 seats, far fewer than the 25 it won in 2019.

Vijayendra's opponents have become more vocal since the cross-voting fiasco.

Though the three-member committee formed to uncover the truth about cross-voting submitted an interim report, no action has been taken so far. Public statements by leaders of different factions have weakened the party's image.

Former chief minister D V Sadananda Gowda openly claimed to have had information about the cross-voting, adding that his efforts to reach out to Vijayendra and Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R Ashoka had not been successful.

The state president also faced severe backlash from several senior leaders for proposing to hold a legislature party meeting in Dharmasthala to catch cross-voters, and eventually dropped the plan.

Some party leaders are seeking a change of party president ahead of the 2028 polls.

Speaking to *DH*, political analyst Harish Ramaswamy felt the state unit lacked unity, adding that there was a lack of "coherence" between Ashoka and Vijayendra. He felt the Congress currently stood a better chance electorally than the BJP in the state.

Ramaswamy felt the saffron party would need to strengthen itself organisationally and also improve the relations between its national and state-level units to counter the ruling Congress.

Assemby secretariat flags misuse of vehicles meant for MLAs

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Legislative Assembly Secretariat has issued a bulletin asking all lawmakers not to misuse vehicles stationed at the Legislators' Home.

According to the bulletin, vehicles at the Legislators' Home are reserved for sitting and former MLAs.

"However, it has recently been noticed that some sitting and former MLAs have been taking these vehicles beyond the limits of Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) jurisdiction. Vehicles are also being obtained on the recommendation of their personal assistants or guests," the bulletin stated.

"As a result, it becomes difficult to provide vehicles to other MLAs during emergencies". Vehicles were being used locally and for outstation travel by ministers, their personal assistants, chairpersons of boards/corporations and their guests, Assembly Secretariat staff and acquaintances and aides on the recommendation of MLAs.

"This has caused inconvenience in making vehicles available to MLAs. Accordingly, in a bulletin dated February 12, 2013, it was directed that the vehicles reserved for MLAs should be used only by MLAs themselves and that they should not recommend allotment of these vehicles to their personal assistants or guests," the bulletin stated.

"Reiterating the above instructions, it is once again informed that if the vehicles reserved exclusively for MLAs are used only by the MLAs themselves, it will be possible to provide vehicles to all sitting and former MLAs who request them. Therefore, MLAs are requested not to recommend that vehicles from the Legislators' Home be provided to their personal assistants or guests," the bulletin stated, adding that MLAs are to use vehicles for travel within GBA limits.

"If, due to illness or any other exigency, it becomes necessary to travel outside the GBA limits, prior approval of the Speaker must be obtained," the bulletin stated.

'Kick him out': Purported clip of DVS seeks Vijayendra's exit

BJP, From Page 1

"In a planned way, July, August, September.. (after) October kick him out. If you do it now, his team may again start. After the completion, if he is replaced by some good man, then automatically, Pradeep ji, everything will go smooth," says the clip.

The audio clip has come as a major embarrassment for the BJP, which is reeling from the cross-voting fiasco on June 18 during the MLC polls (11 BJP and JD-S MLAs cross-voted for the Congress, while one BJP MLA cast an invalid vote).

In response, the other person is heard saying: "You are absolutely right but double game is even played by Mr BLS, Joshi. Joshi is a major culprit."

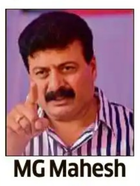
This statement could potentially be referring to BJP national General Secretary (Organisation) B L Santhosh and Union Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi.

The controversy has once again raised the issue of whether Vijayendra will be replaced as the state president. While a section of BJP leaders has constantly opposed Vijayendra since he took over as the party president in November 2023, the opposition to him has intensified after the cross-voting shock. According to one version, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, Union Ministers of State V Somanna and Shobha Karandlaje and Udupi-Chikmagaluru MP Kota Srinivas Poojary are being considered as possible alternatives for Vijayendra.

However, a senior BJP leader and a former minister, who wished not to be quoted, said: "This is just speculation. Three to four people may want a change.. That apart, most people want Vijayendra to continue. We need a leader who travels across the state and spends money. Vijayendra is doing that a bit. He is still young..."

Another senior leader told *DH* that there had not been any discussions in this regard.

BJP expels spokesperson Mahesh for six years



MG Mahesh

BENGALURU/MYSURU, DHNS: The BJP on Monday expelled spokesperson MG Mahesh from the party for six years for "low-level and defamatory" allegations against national and state-level leaders.

In the expulsion order, state discipline committee president Lingaraj Patil said: "In the webex meeting in the evening on June 19, 2026, you have made baseless, low-level and defamatory allegations against state and national-level leaders. You had shown indiscipline, and a notice had been served seeking an explanation. Your explanation is not satisfactory. So, you are immediately relieved of all organisational responsibilities and expelled from the party for six years."

Speaking to *DH*, Mahesh said he has been ousted for speaking the truth. "I did not speak in public. It was on a party platform. It was a meeting of the media wing of the state BJP on June 19, when I spoke on the issues concerning the party. I only spoke the truth. But, the party leaders are not accepting the truth, which is not good for the party," he said.

Physio found dead in Nandi Hills homestay, lover in hospital

Suspicious death, From Page 1

Ali consumed some pills. He has been admitted to hospital and his statement will be recorded once he regains consciousness, the officer said.

A resident of Basavanagudi, Surabhi worked as a physiotherapist at a private hospital in Muddenahalli, near Nandi Hills. Ali, a mechanical engineering graduate, has been working as a cab driver in Bengaluru. He hails from Kozhikode, Kerala. Surabhi's mother, T R Geetha, alleged that her daughter had been murdered and described the incident as a case of 'Love Jihad'. She claimed Ali had been harassing Surabhi for several months, had introduced her to drugs while staying in an apartment and repeatedly tried to contact her despite previous complaints in the Kumaraswamy Layout police station. Geetha also alleged that Ali had told Surabhi that they would begin a live-in relationship after killing her mother. Based on the mother's complaint, the jurisdictional Nandi Giridhama police have taken up a case of murder.

Delhi unveils plan for only-EV...

EV policy, From Page 1

"This policy provides long-term direction for the industry, strengthens confidence in India's EV ecosystem and can serve as a benchmark for other states pursuing cleaner urban mobility," India's largest EV manufacturer Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles said in a statement.

"By retaining ambitious electrification timelines for high-usage vehicle segments and focusing policy incentives on pure EVs, the government has reinforced the principle that public support should benefit and accelerate technologies that deliver maximum environmental benefit," it said.

Co-founder and CEO of Ather Energy, Tarun Mehta said Delhi's new policy would give the entire EV ecosystem the confidence to continue investing and building.

Delhi EV policy targets installation of 32,000 charging points. It will be funded jointly by the Delhi government and the union government under the PM e-Drive scheme. The policy directs schools to convert at least 10% of their fleet to EV within two years.

Industry body Assocham said Delhi's EV policy is a "forward-looking initiative to address the capital's persistent air pollution challenge".

AUCTION NOTICE

This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of vehicles.

1) CB_JEETO_X_7_16
YOM – 2023
Reg No – KA11C5574
2) CB_TIPPER_LPK_912_TATA
YOM – 2023
Reg No – KA19AE3386
3) CB_TATA_INTRA_V_20
YOM – -
Reg No – KA04AD5310
4) CB_TATA_INTRA_V50
YOM – 2023
Reg No – KA19AE4712
5) CB_TATA_ACE_GOLD
YOM – -
Reg No – KA19AE5487
6) TATA MOTORS LTD. – CB _LPT_3718
YOM – 2018
Reg No – KA52A6735
7) CB_BACKHOELOADER _770_NXE_CASE
YOM – -
Reg No – KA53ML7832
8) CB_Ashok Leyland Dost GOODS
YOM – 2023
Reg No – KA41D7856
9) CB_AL_UE2825T_TIPPER_BSVI
YOM – 2024
Reg No – KA32AB1048
10) CB_EICHER PRO 6037 S CAB AND CHASSIS BS3 EICHER VE
YOM – 2018
Reg No – KA29B6694

UNDER HYPOTHECATION WITH M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS (ONLINE/OFFLINE) WITHIN 15 DAYS FROM THIS PAPER PUBLICATION i.e. from 30.06.2026
(Please note that closing Auction date would not be a Weekly off / Holiday)

BRANCH ADDRESS:
KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD.,
22, MG ROAD, BANGALORE
KARNATAKA – 560001
OR
Contact: Arunlaxman Kokare
Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.
Contact / 080 - 61564249

**ASSISTANT CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS,
SOCIAL FORESTRY DIVISION RAICHUR**

No:ACF/SFDR/KPPP.Proc.Tender/CR- /2026-27 Date: 24-06-2026

e-Tender Notification

(ಮೂರನೇಯ ಬಾರಿಗೆ)

This is to inform to the the public that, for the Financial Year 2026-27. Assistant Conservator of Forests, Social Forestry Division, Raichur has invited Tender for Forest Works through e-Procurement (Website Link **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** two cover system under KFDF Flixi Fund-132, Schemes. During 2026-27 Registered Forest Contractors are eligible for Tender Works. Tender From 24-06-2026 to 04-07-2026 & 06-07-2026 Technical Bids and 07-07-2026 Financial Bid Opening.

For More Details available on the notice board. O/o Assistant Conservator of Forests, Social Forestry Division, Raichur.

**Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests,
Social Forestry Division, Raichur**

DIP/RCR/136/KSMC&A/138/2026-27

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-2,
1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru - 560052.

No. DGM-2/BSWML/Tend/06/2026-27 Date: 29.06.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

The Deputy General Manager-2, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible Tenderers for the Project Management Consultancy Services for the works mentioned in the table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for Services through KPP Portal of the Government of Karnataka **(viz https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)**. The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified is as per standard bid document. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Project Amount (Rs. In Lakhs)	Duration (Including Monsoon)	EMD Amount in Rs.
1	Appointment of PMC for the work of Strom Water Drain from Kannur-Chikkagubbi-Doddagubbi-Rampura Lake-Yelemale Chatty lake and Culverts Approach Roads.	8005.23	11 Months	1,50,500/-

NOTE: 1) The Employer shall not be liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the Tenderers of any tender updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the Tenderers. It is the Tenderer's responsibility to verify the KPP Portal for the latest information related to the tender, E-mail address of the Helpdesk is **hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com**. KPP Portal help desk Telephone Numbers are: **080-22371090 / 22373788.** The tenderer is required to ensure browser capability of the computer well in advance to the last date and time for receipt of the tenders. The employer shall not be responsible for non-accessibility of KPP Portal due to internet connectivity issues and technical glitches. **2)** Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be published in the KPP Portal only. **3) Calendar of events:**

Date of Pre Bid Meeting	**06.07.2026 at 15:00 Hours. at the office of CE & CGM (Tech), BSWML, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanthnagar, Bangalore-560052.**
Last Date for Submission of Bids	**17.07.2026 upto 16:00 Hours.**
Date of Opening of Technical Bid	**18.07.2026 at 16:30 Hours.**
Date of Opening of Financial Bid	**Will be notified to Technically Qualified Bidders.**

More details can be downloaded from Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

**Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-2
BSWML**

DIPR/CP/1389/Adverto/2026-27

BANGALORE ELEVATED TOLLWAY PVT. LIMITED
Office: Main Base Camp, Opp. Moog Controls Limited,
KIADB Road, Electronic City Phase I, Bangalore-560100.
Tele: 080-28520758 / 27821760 Email: betpl@highwayconcessions.com
BETPL

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public is hereby informed that, user fee for the use of Elevated section from Km 8.765 to Km 18.750 (Central Silk Board Junction to Electronics City) and at grade section from Km 8.765 to Km 33.130 (Central Silk Board Junction to Karnataka-Tamilnadu Boarder) in Bangalore-Hosur section of NH-44(Old NH-7) in the State of Karnataka are revised as per Wholesale Price Index (WPI) as on 31st March 2026. **(Ref.: NHAI/RO-BNG/11031/1/2026-27/1302 dt 29.06.2026).**

The revised fee for the period from 1st July 2026 to 30th June 2027 calculated based on WPI as on 31st March 2026, are indicated in Tables 1 and 2 below.

Fee Rate for use of Elevated Section (Electronic City Toll Plaza)

Sl. No.	Category of Vehicle	Single journey	Multiple Journey	Monthly pass
1	Two Wheeler	25	40	785
2	Car, Jeep and Van	65	100	1960
3	LCV/Mini Bus	90	135	2745
4	Bus and Truck	185	275	5495
5	MAV	365	550	10985

Fee Rate for Fee Plaza at Km 32.700 (Attibele Toll Plaza)

Sl No	Category of Vehicle	Single journey	Multiple Journey	Monthly pass
1	Two Wheeler	0	0	0
2	Car, Jeep and Van	40	60	1175
3	LCV/Mini Bus	65	100	1960
4	Bus and Truck	130	195	3925
5	MAV	275	410	8240

**Sd/- AUTHORIZED OFFICER
BANGALORE ELEVATED TOLLWAY PRIVATE LIMITED**

KALABURAGI MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Fax No.08472/260776, Phone: 08472/ 278675, Email Id: itstaff_ulb_gulbarga@yahoo.com

No.KMP/HS/SWM/2026-27 Date : 25.06.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sub: Kalaburagi City Corporation have called the below Tenders in KPPP portal.
1) Work Details: 1. Supply of Loaders, Drivers, Driver cum Operator and Cleaners for Solid Waste Management in Zone 1 of Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike on Outsource Basis for the year 2026-27 **Indent No:DMA/2026-27/SE7626/CALL-2**, Tender Amount : **448.80 Lakhs** EMD Rs. 6,73,198/-
2. Supply of Loaders, Drivers, Driver cum Operator and Cleaners for Solid Waste Management in Zone 2 of Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike on Outsource Basis for the year 2026-27, **Indent No:DMA/2026-27/SE7644/CALL-2**, Tender Amount : **431.26 Lakhs** EMD.Rs. 6,46,881/-
3. Supply of Loaders, Drivers, Driver cum Operator and Cleaners for Solid Waste Management in Zone 3 of Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike on Outsource Basis for the year 2026-27, **Indent No: DMA/2026-27/SE7645/CALL-2**, Tender Amount : **431.66 Lakhs**, EMD.Rs.6,47,486/-
4. Supply of Loaders , Drivers, Driver cum Operator and Cleaners for Solid Waste Management of Other Vehicles of Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike on Outsource Basis for the year 2026-27, **Indent No:DMA/2026-27/SE7647/CALL-2,** Tender Amount : **312.96 Lakhs**, EMD.Rs. 4,69,434/-,
2) Last Date and Time for Tender Queries/Clarifications Date: **13.07.2026 Time : 11.00 AM**, 3) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders Date : **14.07.2026 Time : 4.00 PM**
4) Last Date and Time for Opening of Technical Bid Date : **15.07.2026 Time : 4.30 PM**,
5) Last Date and Time for Opening of Financial Bid Date : **16.07.2026 Time : 5.00pm**,
6) Pre Bid Meeting details Date : **13.07.2026 Timing : 11.00 AM** Place : Room No. 28, Kalaburagi Mahanagar Palike, Tank Bound Road, Jagat Kalaburagi-585101, 7) Address to contact for more details: Assistant Executive Engineer (Environment) Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi, 8) Website details: **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

**Sd/- Executive Engineer (SWM)
Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike Kalaburagi**

DIPR/Kalaburagi/270/KSMC&A/2026-27

DECCAN HERALD
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Revisions weaken a critical guarantee

As the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) – VB-G RAM G – gets set for a rollout on July 1, the scheme has drawn criticism even from states governed by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Its predecessor, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme, implemented by the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government, even with some implementation challenges, effectively addressed rural joblessness. The Narendra Modi government reduced financial allocations to the scheme but retained it, given its proven value and public support. Last year, the programme was overhauled and rebranded, a restructuring that has curtailed its scale and utility.

The scheme has undergone a structural shift, from a fully centrally funded wage guarantee programme to a 60:40 Centre-state cost-sharing model, placing a significant financial burden on states, many of which are already struggling with constrained budgets. This shift also marks a departure from the scheme's original rights-based, demand-driven character, raising concerns that increased centralisation and conditional funding could undermine its core objective of guaranteeing employment. Although the Centre highlights the provision for a higher number of statutory wage employment days, there is scepticism over whether this promise will translate into practice. The introduction of a 60-day pause during the agricultural season and other procedural restrictions may reduce the scheme's flexibility and responsiveness to local employment needs. These changes threaten a larger impact amid projections of deficient rainfall and drought conditions. Rural distress may significantly increase the demand for employment across large parts of the country. Ironically, at a time when the scheme's relevance as a social guarantee is most critical, its redesigned funding structure and operational constraints threaten to reduce it to a shadow of its original promise.

Diluted design and altered funding diminish India's rural jobs guarantee when it is needed most

States, including those governed by the BJP, have expressed concerns. Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Jharkhand have appealed to the Centre to reconsider the proposed changes in the funding pattern. Sikkim and Uttarakhand, which have to bear only 10% of the programme's cost, being hill states, have also sought a review of the funding model. Some states have sought higher wages for workers and the withdrawal of the 60-day blackout period. While Karnataka has agreed to implement the revised scheme, it plans to challenge the changes in the Supreme Court, alongside Telangana. The Centre should engage with these concerns, review the new framework, and restore the scheme's effectiveness. At a time of deepening rural distress and employment insecurity, weakening a crucial social safety net risks leaving millions of vulnerable workers without adequate support.

No exemptions in rowdy sheet reviews

The Karnataka government recently announced the creation of dedicated anti-rowdy squads across the state, reflecting its determination to crack down on organised crime. That resolve, however, has been accompanied by a parallel development that exposes serious procedural weaknesses within the police force, raising difficult questions about balancing fairness with public safety. The Karnataka State Police Complaints Authority (KSPCA) has directed the removal of 66 names from the state's rowdy register – including seven from Bengaluru – after finding that the police had failed to carry out the mandatory periodic reviews. More worrying is that the list reportedly includes some notorious rowdies who are still active. Home Minister Priyank Kharge has rightly described the lapse as "nonsense" and criticised the police for allowing such a situation to arise. But that alone will not suffice. The state police has lately been in the news for all the wrong reasons. Unless Kharge purges the force of undesirable elements, collusion between sections of the police and the underworld will continue to undermine the rule of law.

Legal safeguards should protect the reformed, but policing lapses must not enable habitual offenders

While the police may open a rowdy sheet against habitual offenders, they are also under a continuing obligation to review every case periodically. Following the High Court's 2022 judgment in *B S Prakash vs. State of Karnataka*, reviews must take place every two years, and any individual claiming to have reformed may seek deletion of his name. If the police reject the request, the person can approach the KSPCA, which examines whether continued surveillance is justified. These safeguards exist for good reason. A rowdy sheet entry is not meant to become a lifelong punishment. Individuals who have genuinely abandoned crime, rebuilt their lives, and remained law-abiding should not remain on the register indefinitely. Such arbitrary continuation infringes personal liberty and defeats the purpose of periodic review. At the same time, procedural lapses should not become an escape route for active criminals. If dangerous offenders are removed solely because police officers neglected their statutory duty, the consequences could be severe. Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh has assured that the department is examining the legal implications of the Authority's orders.

Responsibility, however, rests on both institutions. The police must comply with judicially mandated reviews rather than treating them as a routine formality. Equally, the Complaints Authority must exercise due diligence before ordering the closure of rowdy sheets, ensuring that only the truly reformed benefit from legal protections. Only then can justice serve both public safety and individual liberty.

WESTWARD DRIFT

India's enduring Third-World legacies

For the country to become a global power, growth must pair with robust public institutions and accountable governance

PRASENJIT CHOWDHURY

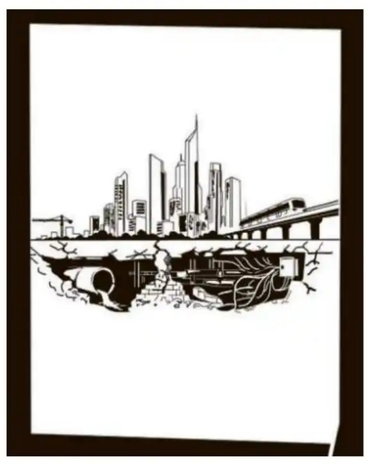
A technical fault on Bengaluru Metro's Purple Line recently triggered political criticism, raising questions about governance standards and a lack of transparency over the city's road expenditure. In a post on X, BJP MP Tejasvi Surya said: "First-world tech talent. Third-world governance. That is the story of Bengaluru".

We somehow wish that our country's airports get swankier, our roads less cluttered and clearer, our metropolises glitzier, our governments more accountable, and our health and educational institutions more on par with the best in the world. Somehow, we get carried away by the general cleanliness of the advanced countries, the orderliness of their people, the efficiency with which public infrastructure is maintained, the state of law and order, and the rule of law governing the institutions and public conduct, and wonder why these things are conspicuously absent in India. Compared to more industrialised countries, cities in the developing world experience a different form of urban development where growth rates are usually more dramatic, housing and transport are often provided informally, and institutional support for urban management is much weaker.

Could we enforce efficiency and order in our public behaviour and behave like First-World citizens, we might ask, even if the question smacks of colonial condescension. We take serious umbrage at Winston Churchill, who famously prophesied that India would become ungovernable if granted independence, predicting it would descend into social and political chaos. We insist, and rightly so, that despite this grim view, free India has robustly functioned as a democratic, civilisational nation. But how effective are force and punishment in maintaining law and order?

During the days of the Raj, Viceroy Lord Linlithgow noted that the Quit India Movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi was "by far the most serious rebellion since 1857". While the British brutally suppressed the uprising and jailed the political leadership, it demonstrated the sheer cost of repressing India. British administrators in India, such as Archibald Wavell, concluded that a policy of ruthless repression to maintain colonial rule was financially unsustainable and unacceptable to the post-war British public.

The trouble is that our political leadership loves to nurse a fantasy of our claim to the First-World hierarchy of things without working on the basics of our aspirational instincts, such as the state of public health and education. We are told that the characteristic of a typical Third-World nation is its being beholden to lenders, First-World governments, and their allied corporations demanding favours in return, which include relinquishing political control or



turning a blind eye to the plunder of natural resources, or both. As the political affairs of the Middle East might amply demonstrate, the standard tool of exploitation by a First-World nation is to manipulate the power structure of countries, done in many ways, including rigging elections, oil companies pumping toxins into rivers, and pharmaceutical giants performing illegal human experimentation. However, does it always take a First-World nation to unleash loot and plunder on a Third-World nation?

A bloc of the excluded

The immigrant invasions of America from across the Mexican border and of Europe from across the Mediterranean have been widely feared to usher in the Third-World dystopia that Theodore Roosevelt warned against when he said Americans must never let America become a "polyglot boarding house" for the world. In today's India, the majoritarian view blames religious minorities, illegal immigrants, the Rohingyas, and the Bangladeshis for the remnants of Third-Worldism that bedevil our rise to glory.

In *Westoxification* (1962), the Iranian novelist and essayist Jalal Al-e-Ahmad – who came of age as Iran was transformed from a small, predominantly agricultural economy into a modern, centralised state with a manufacturing sector and a central role in international oil markets – found the irony lying between Western modernisation and Third-World dystopia very eloquently. He placed the rural migrants in Tehran's overcrowded and unsanitary slums against the backdrop of the despotic Shah of Iran, backed by the United States, accelerating his ambitious modernisation programme. Our crowded local trains, a collapsing warehouse in Kolkata, the inferno in Hauz Rani, New Delhi, and the coaching classes at Aliganj, Lucknow, occasionally expose the Third-World core of our country. This reality often clashes with the false pride that India will become the world's third-largest economy by 2030, a projection offset by low per-person purchasing power due to our huge population.

It was the French economist and demographer Alfred Sauvy who first used the term 'Third World' in an article published in 1952. But the concept which the term expresses is not the invention of a single intellectual but rather the reflection of the reality of the continents which have been "excluded" from power. The term has come to embody the idea that this very exclusion has generated a set of common characteristics in the historical experience of the peoples of Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East. It is interesting to note that before the term 'Third World' appeared, words like 'underdeveloped', 'backward', or 'uncivilised' expressed both the traditions of Western superiority and the attainment of 'developed' and 'civilised' status.

In Mao's analysis, the First World represented the two superpowers (the USA and the erstwhile USSR) which dominated international relations, the Second World consisted of the subalterns of these two powers (the smaller developed countries mostly of Western and Eastern Europe, the members of NATO and the Warsaw Pact), and the Third World consisted of all the poor and powerless countries, including, of course, China. What is instructive is not what India and China were in 1980 – when both had the same economic size – but what their altered trajectories have made them today. Perhaps, we are still a Third-World country with First-World aspirations.

(The writer is a Kolkata-based commentator on geopolitics, development and culture)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Cheer in the mountains

I realised that solitude in the mountains did not always mean being alone

M V SUNDARARAMAN

Every summer I plan a trek in the Himalayas. Seeking an escape from bustling Bengaluru, I am fiercely protective of my quiet time in the hills. And for this, over the years, I have preferred to trek alone. This year too, I booked myself for an early summer climb in Uttarakhand. I reached Rishikesh before dawn and arrived at the pickup point with my trekking gear. As I waited, I was curious about the strangers who would be my fellow trekkers for the next few days. I secretly hoped it would not be a noisy group that would distract me from the quiet I had come looking for. I found my seat in the bus and watched people arrive one by one. A little later, I noticed a couple of women loading their bags onto the roof of the bus and settling inside.

Soon they had guessed I was travelling alone. They introduced themselves as friends from Chennai who often travelled and trekked together. During the long drive to base camp that morning, they spoke to me of the marathons they ran, their fitness regimen, their work and pursuits. It was apparent that they led busy professional lives, took care of their families and yet found time to travel and trek together. From the moment we left Rishikesh, they never once made me feel like an outsider. At every meal they waved me over to their table. They posed for happy pictures, sang and laughed often without being intrusive to others in the group. As the days passed, I noticed that beneath the laughter and banter, they were serious trekkers. They climbed together and looked after one another. They encouraged each other without fuss or drawing attention.

After several days of arduous trekking, the summit climb began at 2 am on a freezing Himalayan night. To my surprise, the women had gathered first at the meeting point – fully geared and ready – even as many younger trekkers were still waking up in their tents. We began our ascent in the darkness with only our headlamps and the clicking of our trekking poles guiding us. Our fingers were soon numb and we were breathing heavily. Yet the women climbed steadily upward. By sunrise they had already reached the summit and were waiting there in the icy wind – cheering as the rest of us arrived one by one.

What has stayed with me most is their affection and kindness. That week, I had forgotten that I was a solo trekker. I realised that solitude in the mountains did not always mean being alone. As I waited to board my flight to Bengaluru, I couldn't help but remember my father's favourite quote from Emerson: "To laugh often and much, to have helped another life breathe easier... is to have succeeded." Those friends from Chennai surely succeeded – and with aplomb.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A case for a citizenship certificate

The ruling party's much-coveted and the Opposition's much-hated SIR drive is all set to begin on June 30 in Karnataka, Delhi, Maharashtra, Meghalaya and Jharkhand among the 16 states and three Union Territories. The very object of the SIR is aimed at updating, cleaning and securing accurate electoral rolls and weeding out the names of the deceased, migrated and duplicate voters. There is an imperative need only for the eligible voters to vote and elect the parties of their choice in the formation of governments. However, care should be taken not to delete genuine voters from the list. The fact is that there is no single document that serves as universal and conclusive proof of citizenship for all individuals. The Centre must chalk out a plan to issue a document that determines citizenship of an individual, like the United States, which issues a certificate of citizenship for derivative citizens, or Canada, which issues a distinct citizenship certificate. India, too, should initiate steps to issue a document that confers citizenship on genuine Indian citizens.
K V Seetharamaiah, Bengaluru

SIT must earn trust

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) now has the mammoth task to conduct a thorough, transparent, and impartial probe into the alleged theft linked to the Ayodhya temple. Given the public faith associated with the temple, accountability and credibility are paramount. The SIT's investigation should be free from political or institutional influence and guided solely by evidence. Whether the truth emerges will depend on the professionalism and integrity of the investigation. Public trust in the SIT can only be earned through responsible action, transparency, and unbiased findings.
P V Prakash, Mumbai

Who is accountable?

It is reprehensible that the Union Education Minister refuses to resign even after what has happened under his tenure. Even more surprising is the prime minister's studied silence. He never tires of stressing probity and accountability in public life, but has not sacked the minister for the lapses that have endangered the future of lakhs of students. In this scenario, where does the buck stop?
V Padmanabhan, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

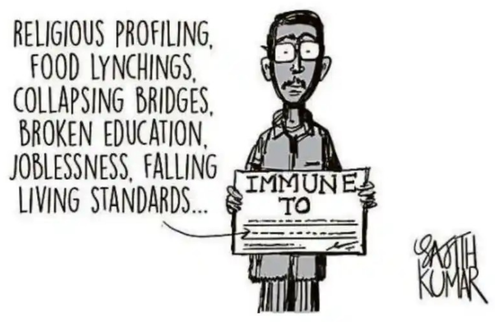
The previous UP CM had no time for people's welfare, funds meant for the public were looted. Development is now taking place in the state.
Yogi Adityanath, Uttar Pradesh CM

People hasten to judge in order not to be judged themselves.

Albert Camus

TO BE PRECISE

Certificate to prove Indian nationality



IN PERSPECTIVE

The politics of depoliticisation

Governance failures must be linked to political responsibility. 'Apolitical' dissent shields power from scrutiny

VISHAL R CHORADIYA

When Abhijeet Dipke, a leader of the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP), addressed the media about the agitation, he stressed that it would not associate with any political party. Outside support was welcome, but organisational independence from partisan formations would be maintained. "We have not spoken to leaders of any political party. This movement is for Gen Z. Those who want to support us can support us externally, but we will not associate ourselves with any political party," he said. What Dipke described was a non-partisan movement. Some media reports described it as apolitical. The distinction matters: a movement can refuse to align with parties while still demanding political accountability.

The appeal to keep governance failures away from "politics" has surfaced across crises. During the farmers' agitation, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders frequently accused opponents of "politicising" the issue. Following major railway accidents, senior ministers called upon critics to avoid "politics" and focus on relief efforts. The pattern was especially visible during COVID-19. In July 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told political leaders that the pandemic should not be a matter of politics but of concern for all humanity. The sentiment sounded reasonable in the midst of a public health emergency. Yet it also reflected a broader tendency to treat political scrutiny as inappropriate precisely when public policy decisions were producing life-and-death consequences.

The problem with such appeals lies in their underlying premise. Governance is political. Public examinations, railway networks, crowd management mechanisms, and economic policies are all shaped by political decisions. So when examination systems collapse under repeated paper leaks, when stampedes claim lives, or when inflation erodes household incomes, citizens confront the consequences of governance. Demanding accountability for those outcomes is among the most fundamental acts in a democracy.

By contrast, seeking the depoliticisation of governance failure is itself a deeply political act. It encourages citizens to view failures as unfortunate events requiring sympathy rather than accountability. And it shields those exercising power from scrutiny by weakening one of the central mechanisms through which democratic systems function.

Democracy extends beyond periodic elections. India provides no right to recall ministers or governments between elections. It does guarantee, however, the freedoms of speech, association, and peaceful assembly. Protest enables citizens to demand answers and seek corrective action from those entrusted with public authority. The role of opposition parties and civil society follows naturally from these principles. Public scrutiny remains an effective check on concentrated political power.

Yet the term "political" has increasingly acquired a pejorative connotation in contemporary public discourse. Once criticism is labelled "political", attention moves away from the substance of the grievance towards the motives of those raising it. The discussion shifts from what went wrong to who stands to gain.

Threat perceptions

Politics, properly understood, concerns the exercise of power and the mechanisms through which power is held accountable. A movement that refuses partisan affiliation while demanding a minister's resignation is exercising exactly this kind of democratic politics. Describing it as apolitical strips it of its accountability claim.

The State's response makes the political significance of this framing more apparent. The Delhi Police readily granted permission for the CJP agitation at Jantar Mantar, and the protests have largely proceeded with official accommodation. Consider the treatment meted out to other protest movements that directly challenge the ruling establishment. Farmers marching towards Delhi, anti-CAA demonstrators, Muslim groups, left-wing student organisations, and opposition activists have faced far more coercive responses.

That the State extended a relatively comfortable reception to the CJP raises a critical question: Does official tolerance reflect confidence that a movement framed primarily as a civic rather than a political challenge poses a limited threat to those in power?

The politics of depoliticisation weakens the connection between governance and accountability, narrows democratic participation, and encourages citizens to abandon the most important democratic question: who is responsible? Movements seeking lasting change succeed when they establish a clear link between administrative failure and political responsibility. Severing that link leaves governments free to absorb criticism while avoiding meaningful consequences or systemic reform.

That is ultimately the purpose depoliticisation serves: it protects power from scrutiny while preserving the appearance of responsiveness. Citizens who resist that impulse perform one of democracy's essential functions by insisting that governance failures must carry political costs for those in power. Whether the CJP agitation ultimately demands those costs will determine whether it is remembered as a moment of democratic assertion or as a well-managed release of public frustration.

(The writer is an assistant professor with the Department of Professional Studies, Christ University, Bengaluru)

India's forests are losing their climate resilience

B K SINGH

Deforestation and biodiversity loss have a considerable impact on human lives and livelihoods. India's forests are under multiple pressures, including anthropogenic activities, shifting cultivation, fire and encroachment, all of which are lowering the ecological services they provide. The diversion of the forest land is emerging as a major threat and acting as a force multiplier that disrupts the ecological balance.

The diversion of forests, involving the sacrifice of millions of trees for projects such as the Great Nicobar Island development for tourism and strategic purposes, the Gargai dam in Maharashtra's Palghar district, and the Dibang hydroelectric project in Arunachal Pradesh, has the potential to seriously compromise the ecological services provided by forests. The Western Ghats' Myristica swamps are found on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)'s red list, and many faunal and floral species are also becoming red-listed. This has far-reaching consequences for human health, the economy, and food and water security. Numerous reports and studies have cautioned both the Union and state governments to exercise restraint and review policies that require the felling of millions of naturally growing trees.

Uma Shankar Singh, a retired IFS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre, has studied the resilience of Indian forests by analysing data published by various institutions and experts. His recent study, *Indian Forests are on the Brink*, published in *Biophilia Insights*, finds that India's rich biodiversity – as one of the 17 mega biodiversity countries – is rapidly eroding. The ecosystems of the country's four biodiversity hotspots are dwindling. Drawing on contemporary studies and examples from projects such as the Ken-Betwa river-linking project in Madhya Pradesh; Adani's coal block projects, Singrauli and Hasdeo, in Chhattisgarh; and the proposed railway lines between Thalassery and Mysuru and between Hunsuru and Mangaluru through steep slopes of Karnataka's Western Ghats, the study argues that these projects are ecologically unsustainable and compromise the vital services rendered by forests.

This study also analyses clearances granted under the Forest (Conservation) Act between 2020 and 2025. It found that citizens and activists approached courts and the National Green Tribunal in 329 cases and secured relief in only 65, or around 20%. By contrast, project proponents challenged the rejection of 160 proposals and succeeded in 126 cases, approximately 79%. Clearly, the courts have tended to favour development over conservation.

The destruction of forests is an invitation to serious epidemics. Zoonotic diseases originating in wildlife that affect livestock and humans include influenza, Nipah, Japanese encephalitis, rabies, plague, Covid-19, leptospirosis and anthrax. During 2019, 2020, and 2021, Covid-19 swept the world, claiming nearly half a million people in India alone. The corona virus was first identified in Wuhan, where a reported 34% of tree cover was lost between 2001 and 2025. Another study documented the slaughter of 47,381 wild animals between May 2017 and November 2019 in the Wuhan region, shortly before the Covid-19 outbreak.

Experts have also linked the Ebola outbreak in the Congo to the consumption of wild animals. The Congo Basin, often called the Earth's second lung after the Amazon, is a vast forest ecosystem rich in wildlife. Hunting wild animals for meat exposes local communities to zoonotic diseases such as Ebola. The World Health Organization (WHO) remains concerned about outbreaks and continues efforts to prevent their spread.

The Government of India has launched a Rs 81,000 crore mega infrastructure and strategic initiative to transform ecologically sensitive Great Nicobar Island into a major maritime, economic and military hub in the Indo-Pacific. The project requires the diversion of 149 sq km of pristine primary forest and the felling of around two million trees, including one million mangroves. This would be an ecological disaster. The National Green Tribunal has also given the project the go-ahead. Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi has criticised it for disrupting the lives of indigenous communities and destroying one of India's richest biodiversity hotspots.

The Forest Conservation Rules were amended in 2023, simplifying the process of diverting forests for defence projects, especially within 100 km of international borders. Wet evergreen forests near the Equator have vast carbon sequestration potential, and losing 149 sq km (about one-sixth of the island) would be a major environmental setback. Compensatory afforestation in Haryana cannot adequately compensate for the loss of biodiversity, carbon sequestration and mature forest ecosystems. The project should be drastically scaled down to meet only genuine defence and security requirements, which could be achieved by diverting less than 20 sq km of forest. We should not sacrifice such invaluable forests for tourism infrastructure and townships.

The Dibang hydroelectric project in Arunachal Pradesh will divert about 1,150 hectares of forest land and require felling of over 3.5 lakh trees. These trees grow on precipitous slopes and form part of rare subtropical evergreen broadleaved forests that are irreplaceable. The project has strategic significance as it is intended to provide balancing reservoirs downstream of China's Motuo project on the Yarlung Zangbo River. However, the region is highly seismic, and India should engage with its neighbour rather than rely solely on environmentally destructive interventions.

Sacrificing pristine forests for coal is a flawed strategy at a time when India is transitioning towards renewable energy at speed and scale.

(The writer is a retired Head of Forest Force, Karnataka)

Celebrity resistance is sometimes mocked as trivial. But they are the only people who can dominate the algorithm with the same power as the US president, making them best poised to undermine his otherwise overwhelming messaging

MOLLY JONG-FAST

NYT

If these stars are democracy's last hope, there's trouble

During Donald Trump's first term, it was trendy, and even lucrative, to stand up to him, so much so that Trump often felt less like a president than a punchline.

It clearly got to the thin-skinned president, who wants to be the hugest, most adored celebrity in the world. But this time around, I have watched many of our most public voices face consequences that once seemed unthinkable.

I've texted with the journalist Don Lemon after he spent a night in jail. I've witnessed *The Late Show With Stephen Colbert*, on which some of the funniest people I know have worked, be brought to an unnatural end. The crown jewel of television journalism, *60 Minutes*, has all but imploded in the face of allegations of politically motivated interference.

This is what a less-free America looks like.

It is true that Trump has had a bad couple of weeks, what with his green Reflecting Pool and his embarrassing loss in a war that he started. But if you want a sure sign that he still has an iron grip on this country, look no further than the way some of this country's most prominent celebrities — who once had no problem denouncing Trump — have fallen silent.

Last year, Selena Gomez, a grandchild of undocumented immigrants, posted a tearful Instagram story about how "all my people are getting attacked," in reference to the administration's immigration policy. She was swarmed with internet hate — notably from Piers Morgan and some popular, anonymous right-wing accounts — and quickly deleted her post. Political speeches aimed at the administration have been largely absent from major Hollywood awards shows, and even *Saturday Night Live* seems to have gone soft on Trump.

The once-outspoken actress Jennifer Lawrence explained her view on politics these days to *The Times*: "Celebrities do not make a difference whatsoever on who people vote for. So then what am I doing? I'm just sharing my opinion on something that's going to add fuel to a fire that's ripping the country apart." Many of her peers seem to have adopted the same approach. Lately, it seems that the far-right commentator Tucker Carlson seems to be speaking up louder against Trump than any of #Resistance crowd.

I saw this dynamic at work when I stood on the red carpet before the Tony Awards this month, interviewing actors about — among many things — their political views. I could feel the fear. The celebrities I spoke to were clearly worried that the views they had advertised just a few years earlier could cause them to be on the wrong side of a MAGA internet mob or a Brendan Carr call-out or a profitable film franchise's hiring decisions. If they mentioned politics at all, they would gingerly nibble around its edges.

Kelly Ripa talked about education. Mark Ballas, of *Dancing With the Stars* fame, told me he was "not here to talk about politics." Some actors tried to be bold, mentioning LGBTQ rights in particular, but they didn't really criticise the Republicans who are attacking those rights. There was a lot of oping on freedom but not a lot of outrage directed at those who want to take that freedom away.

In a world where legacy media brands have less influence or are losing their independence, and where celebrities and influencers have more cultural power than ever before, MAGA wants liberal celebrities to be too afraid to speak up, so that Trump can be the only true star. When Trump's authoritarianism is all but underwritten by well-liked public figures and all but ignored by others, its toxic tenets start to look like politics as usual. If Americans begin to accept as normal that it's just too risky to speak up, then something fundamental has changed in the United States, for the worse.

Celebrity resistance is sometimes mocked as trivial. After all, ordinary people, in Minneapolis especially, have found the courage to stand up against the government's overreach. At least two — Alex Pretti and Renee Good — have died while doing so. Their actions make a speech on an awards show stage seem frivolous by comparison. Who cares what actors or pop stars think about politics?

The president does. Celebrities are the only people who can dominate the algorithm with the same power as him, making them best poised to undermine the president's otherwise overwhelming messaging. We look to our cultural figures to show us how to fight back against the pressure to stay silent, to give us the words to say that what we're seeing isn't normal. When speaking up actually means risking something, for once, it is more necessary than ever.

So what would resistance from those Americans who have the most cultural power really look like? The best example I have is from my grandfather, Howard Fast. He was not only the author of *Spartacus* and *April Morning* and scores of books no one can remember, he also risked his career to stand up to Joseph McCarthy. He went from being, quite literally, the *Voice of America* (he was an early writer for the broadcaster) to being held in contempt of Congress and then sent to Mill Point Federal Prison in West Virginia.

You see, Grandpa was involved in a charity which raised money for refugees of the Spanish Civil War and antifascist fighters from across Europe; he refused to turn over a list of Spanish Republicans the organization had helped. Grandpa Howie was absolutely a Communist, but his political beliefs should not have been a crime. He didn't believe that the United States government would send him to prison for them.

As he wrote in his memoir, "There were no troops of brownshirts prowling our streets, and while some people who had been close to us withdrew from us, it was never an act of hostility." He ultimately fared much better than most of his comrades — Pablo Neruda wrote a not-very-good poem about him, and after three months, he was released from prison. He was not the only celebrity who was punished in these times — Dalton Trumbo, Ring Lardner Jr and Albert Maltz were too. Artists were jailed and ordinary people lost their jobs.

The point of it all was that when the government overreached, he pushed back against it, believing the principles of America would in the end withstand the efforts of those who would pervert them. In doing so, he perhaps gave others the courage to do so as well. I was thinking about him towards the end of my night on the red carpet, when I was truly starting to despair. Was there really no one with courage?

Then, with a new face and the same old gleeful crankiness, Rosie O'Donnell appeared. She told me she was coming back to America to do a one-woman show, and — despite having fled to Ireland upon Trump's election to a second term — said she is not afraid at all. Later, she texted me, "It's the duty of all Americans to speak out against this fascist criminal administration — free speech — use it or lose it."

The New York Times

How the law taxes free speech

ISHAAN UDAY AND HEMANG NAGPAL

India prides itself on being the world's largest democracy. However, the laws governing terrorism raise concerns to the contrary. Anti-terrorism laws increasingly appear to delegitimise free speech, a fundamental right in any healthy democracy. The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967, and the law of Sedition under Section 152 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2024 (previously Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code, 1860), together constitute a legal framework for criminalising dissent. Their operation is best understood not only as a constitutional failure but also an economic one.

The sedition law (Section 124A, IPC) was introduced by the British to suppress the Indian nationalist movement. Used against numerous freedom fighters, it carried within it a maximum sentence of life imprisonment for any person expressing 'disaffection' towards the Raj. Independent India chose to retain it.

In *Kedar Nath Singh v. State of Bihar* (1962), the Supreme Court of India upheld the validity of Section 124A but held the law could apply only to speech that directly incited violence or public disorder. Criticism of the government, however vehement, must be excluded. This caveat has been consistently ignored by the government, with Adivasis, activists, and protesters bearing the brunt.

When the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) began tracking sedition cases in 2014, the numbers told an even clearer story. Of the 326 cases registered between 2014 and 2019, only six resulted in convictions, while more than half did not even lead to chargesheets. In *Vombatkere v. Union of India* (2022), the Supreme Court acknowledged these concerns and stayed all fresh proceedings under Section 124A, noting that the provision was 'not in tune with the current social milieu'.

The legislative response, however, was one of renaming, not reform. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita replaced Section 124A with Section 152, criminalising acts that endanger India's sovereignty, unity or integrity. Framed by the Union government as a shift from *rajdroh* to *deshdroh*, legal scholars have described it as old wine in a new bottle.

Enacted in 1967 to curtail secessionist organisations, the UAPA has undergone significant amendments that have steadily expanded state power at the cost of citizens' rights. The 2019 amendment went the furthest, allowing the government to designate any individual or group as a terrorist without the commission of a crime, with oversight vested in a committee of government officials who may or may not have judicial expertise.

Further, in *NIA v. Watali* (2019), the Supreme Court held that courts deciding bail applications under the UAPA must presume the prosecution's case to be true. This effectively inverts the burden of proof, making it harder for the accused to make their case.

The UAPA conviction rate at 3.2% as compared to a conviction rate of 54% under the IPC in 2023 is not a statistical anomaly. The legal framework is sufficiently ambiguous so as to allow those under trial to go to prison without possibility of bail. The cost is measured in years lost in prison, lives shattered and financial ruin, all before any verdict is delivered.

Economists would argue this system functions much like tax. For example, the benefits of investigative journalism -- better informed citizens, accountability, and correction of governance failures – accrue to society as a whole. The costs of this work, however, in terms of time, risk, and legal exposure, are borne entirely by the individual, while the rewards are shared by everyone.

American economist Paul Samuelson showed that society will always produce too little of such socially beneficial work if left to market forces alone. British economist Arthur Pigou similarly argued that the rational response is to subsidise such activity, not tax it. The State ought to be making it easier, not harder, for individuals to undertake work that benefits society.

Prosecution under these laws inverts that logic by forcing individuals to bear the extraordinary costs of prosecution, prolonged detention and financial ruin in addition to the ordinary costs of their work. A 'public goods tax', as the authors term it, is the use of criminal law to make an author of socially beneficial expression pay a price that the rest of the society never has to. The result is the depletion of an already scarce supply of accountability on which democracy depends.

Reform is a legislative action, wholly dependent on political will. The threshold for what constitutes an 'act of terrorism' or 'unlawful activity' must be clarified through clear statutory criteria to enable consistent and fair enforcement. The laws laid out in *Watali* should be revisited. There should also be an independent body to oversee the enforcement of these laws.

(The writers are fourth-year law students at Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: JUNE1976

Anand and Vijay win again

London, June 29
Striking up a splendid combination, India's Anand and Vijay Amritraj created history today by becoming the first Indian pair ever to crash into the men's doubles semi-finals at the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships. In a rip-roaring tussle, the brothers defeated the American duo of Mike Estep and Tom Gorman in five sets at 6-3; 3-6; 6-3; 3-6; 6-4. The Indians owed their victory to their superior serving (they dropped their service on only two occasions) and super volleying. The Americans forced them into many errors with their hard hitting, but they prevailed.

25 YEARS AGO: JUNE 2001

State moves SC against AP projects

New Delhi, June 29
Karnataka today filed an application before the Supreme Court of India, seeking a direction to the Centre to instruct Andhra Pradesh to "cease and desist" from further construction of the Telugu Ganga and Srisailam left bank canal projects. Citing the judgement of the SC and directives of the Bachawat water disputes tribunal, the Karnataka application submitted that AP was going ahead "full steam" with the construction of these two unapproved projects.

OASIS | BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJ

Man does not need to master nature

Climate change and global warming are sometimes thought of as things that will happen in the future. But scientists are finding increasing evidence that the planet is changing now — and that people must take a large share of the blame for this phenomenon.

They further explain that excessive carbon emissions through industrial and vehicular pollution, use of CFCs and plundering of forests and natural resources have depleted the ozone layer. This has trapped more and more solar radiation inside the earth's atmosphere. As a result, the earth is heating up, which has begun to trigger a chain of natural upheavals like floods, earthquakes, tsunamis, and landslides in recent times.

To prevent such an eventuality, humans need to work on themselves. Man does not need to master nature. The human soul is the master of all that is material. It is when the soul begins to identify itself with the body that it comes under the influence of matter and vices. In the Golden and Silver Ages, when all human souls had self-awareness and divine qualities, nature was their obedient servant. No natural calamity ever occurred in that era because humans and nature existed in complete harmony, each respecting the other.

This state of affairs continued till the beginning of the Copper Age, when the souls forgot who they were and began to come under the influence of the body and the vices.

They then began to exploit natural resources, gradually harming the environment. In return, nature too ceased to obey souls who had lost mastery over themselves. As the influence of the vices grew, so did the plunder of nature, and what was once a harmonious relationship turned more into one between an exploiter and the exploited. This process, over time, has brought us to the present pass.

Now, if we wish to go back from the brink and return to a life of harmony with nature, we need to realise our spiritual identity and values. Such awareness will make us naturally eco-friendly and send out a positive energy that will bring the elements of nature into harmony with us again. If a critical mass of humans begin to live with this spiritual awareness, nature will by itself become our friend, and humanity will look at a golden instead of a doubtful future.

Bengal clears law for one-year preventive detention without trial

BJP govt also passes Bill to make people financially accountable for property damage

KOLKATA, DHNS

The BJP government in West Bengal on Monday got two Bills passed in the Assembly to empower the police to detain persons for 12 months without trial to prevent "antisocial activities" and to hold people financially accountable for damage to public and private properties during riots, unlawful assemblies, and violent protests.

Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari introduced the West Bengal Maintenance of Public Order (Amendment) Bill, 2026, and the West Bengal Public Safety and Control of Anti-Social Activities Bill, 2026, in the Assembly, which passed both.

The Public Safety and Control of Anti-Social Activities Bill empowers the state government to order preventive detention of a person for up to a year if it is satisfied that such detention is necessary to prevent activities considered prejudicial to public order.

New law incoming

- **Bengal passes** Maintenance of Public Order (Amendment) Bill and Public Safety and Control of Anti-Social Activities Bill
- **Public Safety** and Control of Anti-Social Activities Bill lets state govt detain a person for up to a year to prevent activities considered prejudicial to public order
- **Maintenance of Public Order** (Amendment) Bill sets up panel to determine compensation for damage to public, private property during riots, violent protests

The Bill also expands the definition of "antisocial activities" to include offences such as organised extortion, unlawful dispossession of property, obstruction of business, illegal mining and sand extraction, and other acts deemed to create fear or insecurity among the public.

The Bill also empowers the authorities to attach and dispose of properties linked to anti-social activities to recover losses arising from such offences.

It had been observed that "certain sections of society" were engaging in antisocial activities, thereby posing a serious threat to the lives and property of the bona fide citizens of the state, said Adhikari while introducing the Bill.

He noted that the extant provisions of the prevailing Acts and rules had been found ineffective and inadequate to combat or tackle nefarious activities. "To curb these activities, severely punish the anti-social elements, and prevent their conspiratorial designs, it is considered necessary to bring in some provisions in the form of a new Bill," he said.

The Bill was passed in the Assembly by voice vote with members of the family of Haragobinda Das and Chandas Das — the father-son duo killed during April 2025 violence in Murshidabad — present in the visitors' gallery.

The Maintenance of Public Order (Amendment) Bill introduced a statutory Claims Commission to determine compensation for damage caused to public and private property during riots, unlawful assemblies and violent protests.

The commission can hold not only those directly involved in violence but also organisers, financiers, instigators, and logistical supporters liable for compensation.

In the event of non-payment, the amount can be recovered as arrears of land revenue through attachment and auction of property.

The CM argued that stronger preventive powers and financial penalties were necessary to deal with organised violence and protect public property. He, however, assured the House that the government would not misuse the Bills for vendetta politics.

The Maintenance of Public Order (Amendment) Bill was passed with 176 members of the Assembly voting in favour, 42 voting against and 20 abstaining from voting.

The Assembly also approved two Bills to recast West Bengal's Other Backward Classes (OBC) reservation framework following a Calcutta High Court judgment last year.

No curbs on petrol, diesel sale from July 1

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The government on Monday announced it will withdraw emergency restrictions on the sale of petrol and diesel to commercial and industrial consumers starting July 1, signalling a return to normal fuel supply conditions across the country.

This comes after the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas reviewed the improved availability of petroleum products following the easing of global supply disruptions.

In an order issued on June 29, the Ministry has rescinded its June 12 directive that had capped diesel sales at retail outlets to 200 litres per vehicle per day and barred industrial, commercial, and institutional buyers from purchasing fuel from petrol pumps.

The restrictions were introduced amid global supply disruptions caused by tensions in West Asia, which had affected crude oil and fuel shipments through the Strait of Hormuz. They were aimed at preventing shortages, hoarding, black marketing, and diversion of fuel while ensuring an uninterrupted supply to ordinary retail consumers.

"The temporary measures were considered necessary and expedient in the public interest to maintain supplies of motor spirit (petrol) and high speed diesel... and secure their equitable distribution and availability at fair prices," the ministry stated in the latest order.

Journalist's passport row: Kerala CM writes to Adhikari

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Kerala Chief Minister VD Satheesan has sought the urgent intervention of his West Bengal counterpart Suvendu Adhikari in the passport renewal issue of senior Malayali journalist R Rajagopal, whose name was deleted from the electoral rolls during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

Rajagopal, former editor of The Telegraph, said his passport renewal application was held up following an adverse report by Kolkata Police after his name was struck off the rolls. As a result, he was unable to travel abroad to attend his daughter's wedding.

In a letter to Adhikari, Satheesan said Rajagopal, who has lived in Kolkata for the past three decades, is a renowned journalist and the son of V Ramadas, former secretary of the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi in Kerala, widely respected for his public service.

Kerala Opposition leader and former CM Pinarayi Vijayan said it was shocking that Rajagopal's name was removed from the electoral roll and he was denied a passport. He also expressed doubts that Rajagopal might be facing retaliation for being a strong critic of the BJP.

Rajagopal said he had submitted all documents sought by the police for verification, yet his passport renewal request was denied on the basis of an adverse police report citing his deletion from the electoral rolls. He added that he has also initiated legal action against the deletion.

Ram Temple case: Lawyers seek CBI probe

Those representing fund theft accused to be fined Rs 5L

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Lawyers in Ayodhya, who have decided not to represent the eight accused arrested in connection with the alleged embezzlement of offerings at the Ram Temple, said they will also seek a CBI probe into the case.

They also demanded that temple trust general secretary Champat Rai and members Anil Mishra and Gopal Rao, all in the eye of the storm, leave Ayodhya.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the Ayodhya Bar Association on Monday.

Bar Association president Kalika Prasad Mishra said no lawyer would appear for the accused in court. "A fine of Rs 5 lakh will be imposed on anyone who represents them, and they will also lose membership of the association," Mishra warned.

He said a petition would be filed in court seeking a CBI probe into the alleged fund theft and registering a case against Rai, Mishra and Rao, whose names were not included in the FIR lodged by the police.

"All three — Champat Rai, Anil Mishra and Gopal Rao — will have to leave Ayodhya within three days. We will block all entry points to the religious town if they don't leave," he added.

He noted that a similar decision had been taken in 2005 as well, when terrorists struck at the makeshift Ram Temple.

Lawyers said they felt ashamed by the alleged embezzlement of offerings. "The incident has brought a bad name to Ayodhya... we are deeply hurt," one lawyer said.

Meanwhile, all eight accused, arrested earlier and produced in court on Monday, were remanded in 14 days' judicial custody.

The accused were associated with counting cash and valuables received as donations at the Ram Temple.

'LEAVE AYODHYA'

- Temple trust's Champat Rai, Anil Mishra, Gopal Rao asked to leave Ayodhya
- Lawyers say incident has tarnished Ayodhya's name
- Accused sent to 14-day judicial custody

Oppn targets BJP

The Opposition sharpened its attack on the BJP, with Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav urging "true Sanatanis" not to vote for the BJP or seek election tickets from the party, alleging that it had "betrayed Lord Ram".

Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal urged the people to defeat the BJP, alleging that they had "looted" the country and did not even spare Lord Ram.

(With PTI inputs)

'Heavens won't fall': SC refuses urgent hearing on temple plea

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Monday declined to accord an urgent hearing to a petition seeking a CBI-led investigation into alleged financial irregularities and embezzlement of donations at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

A bench of Justices MM Sundresh and Sheel Nagu directed that the petition be listed for regular hearing after the summer vacation. "Heavens are not going to fall... What is the urgency?" the bench remarked orally.

The plea, filed by advocates Ajay Kumar Rai and Dinesh Kumar Yadav, has sought directions for the constitution of a special investigation team (SIT) headed by the CBI to conduct a time-bound probe into the purported misappropriation of funds and other irregularities concerning the Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust.

It also urged the Centre, the Uttar Pradesh government and the temple trust to put in place robust audit mechanisms to protect public interest and restore the confidence of millions of devotees and donors.

SBI wanted to change cash-counting staff three months ago: Sources

AYODHYA (UP), PTI: Amid an ongoing row over alleged embezzlement of donations at the Ram temple here, sources in the State Bank of India (SBI) said on Monday that the bank wanted to change the cash-counting staff at the shrine three months ago, but the members of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust did not allow it to do so.

The sources claimed that the bank had a feeling about three months ago that funds were being siphoned off from the donation boxes at the temple and recommended removing the staff from the cash-counting duty.

The outsourcing agency was even preparing to initiate the removal process, but trust officials allegedly intervened to defend the staff and saved them from being dismissed, they added.

The SBI had hired these staff on nominal monthly wages of Rs 12,000 to Rs 15,000, the sources said.

No immediate comment on the matter was available from anyone representing the trust.

People attend the 'Dhwajarohan' ceremony at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya in November 2025. PTI FILE

Earlier in the day, Congress leader Pawan Khera also claimed that the SBI wanted to change the cash-counting staff at the temple three months ago.

Talking to reporters in Chhattisgarh's Raipur, Khera said, "Three months ago, the SBI had recommended that those posted at the counting centre be removed. Who has been protecting them? Nagpur or Delhi?"

The Congress leader also claimed that the alleged donation theft at the Ram temple is only a glimpse and more such cases will follow.

"The alleged loot in Ayodhya is only a glimpse, Kashi and Mathura are yet to come," he said.

The sources said many people involved in the temple management, but not the members of the trust, raised questions on several occasions that when the SBI was receiving such huge deposits from the temple on a daily basis, why had it outsourced the work to minimum-wager staff and not posted permanent employees for the counting purpose.

VHP defends Champat Rai, says Trust sought probe

The Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) on Monday said the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust itself has been pushing for a fair probe into the alleged embezzlement of donations at the temple, claiming that the Trust carried out an internal inquiry and sought the formation of an SIT, reports PTI.

The RSS affiliate also defended senior Trust functionaries Champat Rai and Anil Mishra, saying they voluntarily resigned to ensure a fair probe into the case, and asserted that the first FIR in the matter was lodged by the Trust itself after the SIT submitted its preliminary findings. The VHP also hit out at opposition leaders, including AAP convenor Arvind Kejriwal, alleging that unlike Rai and Mishra, they did not resign from public office despite facing corruption allegations.

TVK moves to form 'secular alliance' in TN

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Two months after forming the government, the ruling Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) has moved to form a new "secular" alliance in Tamil Nadu under its leadership, incorporating almost all former DMK alliance partners as its constituents.

Chief Minister and TVK president C Joseph Vijay has called for a meeting of the leaders of these alliance partners on July 1. The Congress, CPM, CPI, IUML, VCK and MDMK — all former constituents of the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance — have been invited to the meeting, sources told *DH*.

Barring MDMK — whose two MLAs have refused to resign, as they were elected on DMK's Rising Sun symbol — and CPI and CPM, all other parties are already part of the TVK government. MDMK walked out of the DMK alliance on Saturday.

"This meeting is primarily to thank the leaders of the political parties that supported TVK during a crucial period," a source told *DH*.

The meeting also comes at a time when TVK is busy welcoming AIADMK leaders joining the party after resigning as MLAs. TVK's individual strength in the Assembly is 107, while 13 members from different parties support the government from inside or outside.

A source said the meeting is also to dispel speculation that the government may fall amid rumours that DMK might ask its former allies to pull the plug at any time.

The meeting will witness Vijay proposing the idea of a secular front.

Army joins Assam flood rescue efforts

GUWAHATI, DHNS

Indian Army troops of the Spear Head division on Monday rescued 27 people in north Assam's Dhemaji district that has been ravaged by flood following heavy rain and landslides in neighbouring Arunachal Pradesh.

Panic gripped Dhemaji after a landslide blocked the upper reaches of the Gai river in Arunachal Pradesh, raising fears of flash flood in the downstream areas.

In Dhemaji, one person went missing and over 41,000 people were affected on Monday, taking the number of flood-hit people in Assam to 45,839, according to the Assam State Disaster Management Department.

Altogether 655 people have been provided shelter in relief camps in the north Assam district. Other affected districts are Lakhimpur, Biswanath, Dibrugarh, Nalbari, Bongaigaon and Chirang.

The National Disaster Response Force personnel also joined hands with the army troops in the rescue operation.

Home Minister Amit Shah spoke to the chief ministers of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh and took stock of the flood situation.

A view of the devastated NEEPCO Colony in Keyi Panyor district, Arunachal Pradesh, on Monday. Three people were killed while search operations continued for two others missing in the aftermath of the disaster. PTI

On Sunday, railway services to Arunachal Pradesh via Dhemaji was affected after a railway bridge was damaged. Trains from Assam were short-terminated at Silapathar in Dhemaji.

Life in many parts of Arunachal Pradesh remained paralysed due to several landslides, which blocked arterial roads. A man engaged in road clearance work died in Anjaw district after a stone slip on Sunday.

The administration asked residents to shift to safer locations in view of rising water level and forecast of heavy rain.

Meanwhile, in Arunachal Pradesh's Lower Dibang Valley district, four people stranded on an island in Sisiri River in Dambuk were rescued by an Indian Air Force (IAF) helicopter.

Justice on hold as courts grapple with backlog of over five crore cases

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Courts in the country are burdened with an unprecedented backlog of over 5.8 crore pending cases, even as a severe shortage of judges continues to undermine the justice delivery system, raising serious concerns over ordinary citizens' access to timely justice.

With just about 22 judges per million population — far below the Law Commission's recommended 50 — the judicial system is struggling to keep pace with the rising influx of cases. The Supreme Court alone has over 92,429 pending matters as of May 2026, a new record, while high courts and subordinate courts bear the brunt of the crisis.

Chief Justice of India Justice Surya Kant has described the situation as pressing. Welcoming the recent increase in the Supreme Court's sanctioned strength from 34 to 38 judges, the CJI called it "a crucial step towards faster disposal of pending cases".

High courts continue to have around 33% vacancies, while subordinate courts report 21%. Legal experts and former judges point out that this chronic understaffing has turned justice into a long-drawn ordeal for millions.

Former Supreme Court judge Justice Abhay Oka recently flagged the low judge-population ratio as the core reason for mounting delays.

According to available data, the total number of pending cases rose to about 54 million by the end of 2025, an 80% jump over the last decade. Over 1.8 lakh cases are said to be pending for more than 30 years.

In subordinate courts, where ordinary citizens seek redressal for civil, criminal and family matters, nearly 63% of cases are over a year old. The situation is no better in HCs.

Experts emphasise that filling existing vacancies on priority is the most immediate requirement. The collegium and the government must work in tandem to clear the appointment logjam.

Record PENDENCY

- **22 judges per million,** far below Law Commission's recommended 50
- **SC pendency** hits 92,429; record high as of May 2026
- High court vacancies at 33%; subordinate courts report 21%
- CJI Surya Kant calls crisis pressing
- Experts urge collegium and government to act

CJP invites all political parties to join Jantar Mantar protest

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) on Monday invited all political parties, as well as BJP members who seek accountability, to join their protest seeking the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, as activist Sonam Wangchuk's hunger strike entered the second day.

The invite came on the day CPM general secretary M A Baby, senior leader Brinda Karat, and CPI general secretary D Raja visited Jantar Mantar here and interacted with Wangchuk and CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke.

CPI(ML)L general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya was present at the CJP's June 6 protest.

Talking to reporters in the evening, Wangchuk and Dipke urged parties to set aside ideological differences and join the protest to seek accountability from the central government over the CBSE and NEET-UG fiascos.

"This is an issue that concerns every party. It is also an issue for the BJP. To those who think this is for the Opposition, it is not a political platform. There is no need for anyone to feel insecure about this," Wangchuk said.

Dipke appealed to all parties and those in the BJP who sought accountability to join the protest.

RULE RELIEF

Current Class 10 CBSE batch exempted from new policy

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Monday issued fresh guidelines for the implementation of its three-language policy, granting exemption to the current batch of Class 10 students from studying three languages.

In a statement, the board said students in classes 7 to 9 who have already opted for two non-native (foreign) languages will be allowed to continue with that combination while taking one additional Indian language.

"The current batch of Class 10 will not have to follow the three-language policy. The current batches of classes 7-9 will not be required to give board exams in third language when they progress to Class 10," CBSE Academics Director Praggya M Singh told mediapersons.

The clarification comes weeks after the board mandated that students in Class 9 have to study three languages, with at least two of them being Indian languages, in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Under the revised scheme, every student in Class 9 during the 2026-27 academic session will study three languages, with at least two being Indian languages. However, as a "special one-time relaxation", students already studying two non-native languages such as English and French may continue with their choices and add one Indian language as their third language.

CBSE further said the third language for the current Class 9 batch will be assessed only through an internal school-based assessment and "there will be no CBSE Board examination for this third language when this batch progresses to Class 10 2027-28".

Those currently in classes 7 and 8, who have already selected and started studying two non-native languages will have to take one additional Indian language and continue the combination until Class 10. The third language for these students will also be assessed internally.

CBSE said the guidelines have been issued to align school education with NEP 2020 while safeguarding student interests.

Trainer aircraft crash-lands in UP; woman pilot safe

NEW DELHI, PTI: A trainer aircraft crash-landed in a field in Kasganj, Uttar Pradesh, and the 28-year-old lady trainee pilot who operated the plane is safe, according to the aviation watchdog DGCA.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is investigating the incident.

The Chetak Aviation Cessna 152 aircraft VT-AFB, engaged in solo flying at Aligarh, has crash-landed in a field in Kasganj. She (trainee pilot) is reported to be safe," the regulator said in a statement.

According to the DGCA, Chetak Aviation has stated that the aircraft landed on the side of the e-way and the pilot is unharmed.

The Cessna 152 is a single-engine, two-seater aircraft used for training activities.

The incident on Monday is at least the second involving a trainer aircraft in UP in the last four days. On June 26, a trainee pilot sustained injuries after being hit by a running propeller of a trainer aircraft at the Kanpur airport.

India's first Petroglyph Conservation Park in Leh

LEH, PTI: Works on India's first Petroglyph Conservation Park here have gathered pace, with 31 ancient petroglyphs already relocated through a meticulous conservation exercise from vulnerable sites across Ladakh, officials said on Monday.

The park at Sindhu Ghat in Leh will house petroglyphs collected from vulnerable and isolated locations across the Union Territory, ensuring their preservation for future generations.

Yasin Malik named main accused in brutal 1990 killing of nurse Sarla Bhat

She was tortured and killed on suspicion of being an informer

STATE INVESTIGATION AGENCY
Jammu and Kashmir

"The chargesheet sends a powerful and unequivocal message that time can never become a shield for terrorism. No matter how many years have elapsed, those responsible for terrorist atrocities will continue to remain answerable before the law.

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

Thirty six years after the abduction and murder of nurse Sarla Bhat, a Kashmiri Pandit, the State Investigation Agency (SIA) has filed a 737-page chargesheet before a special court in Srinagar against five members of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), including its former chief Mohammad Yasin Malik.

Yasin Malik

The chargesheet — filed before the Court of the Additional Sessions Judge, TADA/POTA, and Special Judge designated under the NIA Act — names Malik, Khurshid Ahmad Chalkoo, Abdul Hamid Sheikh, Mohammad Yousuf Sofi alias Idrees, and Ghulam Mohammad Taploo as accused in the April 18, 1990, killing.

Sheikh, Sofi, and Taploo have since died. Malik is currently in Delhi's Tihar Jail in another case, while proclamation proceedings have been initiated against Chalkoo, who investigators say fled to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

The probe was transferred to the SIA in March 2024. Over the past year, it re-examined physical evidence, recorded fresh witness statements, and analysed forensic, ballistic, medical, documentary, and electronic evidence. "Forensic experts re-examined the cartridges recovered from the crime scene and concluded they had been fired from the same automatic weapon used in the attack," an official familiar with the investigation said.

The findings, the official said, were corroborated by protected witnesses and surviving eyewitnesses, many of whom had not been examined in detail during the original investigation because of the security situation at that time.

According to the investigation, Bhat (29) — a nurse at the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) — was abducted near the hospital on April 18, 1990, tortured and later shot dead in Omer Colony in Srinagar's Malbagh area.

The agency said rumours portraying her as an informer were found to be baseless, but were allegedly used as a pretext for her killing.

Investigators alleged that the murder was part of a broader campaign to spread fear among Kashmiri Pandits and accelerate their displacement during the early years of militancy in J&K.

The accused have been charged under Sections 364, 341, 302 read with 34, 201, and 120-B of the Ranbir Penal Code, relevant provisions of the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act or TADA, and Sections 7 and 27 of the Arms Act.

Bhat's killing came during a wave of targeted attacks in 1990 that also claimed the lives of BJP leader Tika Lal Taploo, retired judge Neelkanth Ganjoo, and Doordarshan Srinagar Director Lassa Kaul. According to police records, militants killed 209 Kashmiri Pandits between 1990 and 2008, including 109 in 1990 alone.

In Court

SIA filed a 737-page chargesheet in the 1990 abduction and murder of Kashmiri Pandit nurse Sarla Bhat

JKLF ex-chief Yasin Malik has been named the main accused along with four alleged associates

The accused face charges of kidnapping, murder, conspiracy and terror offences under RPC, TADA and the Arms Act

Rare Army-police face-off in J&K sparks coordination debate

SRINAGAR, DHNS: A rare Army-police face-off in Jammu and Kashmir's hilly Kishtwar district has triggered debate over security coordination, with retired officials citing their longstanding partnership and questioning the civil administration's role.

For more than three decades, the Army and the J&K Police have functioned as the core of the counter-insurgency grid in the Union Territory, sharing intelligence and conducting joint anti-terror operations. Public confrontations between the two forces are uncommon.

The latest episode unfolded after a vehicle associated with the Army allegedly delayed the convoy of the deputy commissioner on a narrow road in Kishtwar.

The cops subsequently intercepted the vehicle and took it to the Atholi Police Station. Army personnel subsequently reached the police station seeking its release, where the situation escalated into a confrontation.

Videos circulating on social media showed personnel from both sides pointing weapons at each other before senior officers defused the situation.

Following the incident, the J&K Police registered an FIR against a colonel, a major, and around 40 personnel of 17 Rashtriya Rifles.

The Army has issued a brief statement acknowledging an "interaction" between its personnel and the police, and saying that the matter was being handled through established institutional mechanisms.

The episode has generated significant discussion on X, with many users expressing support for the Army and questioning the civil administration's handling of the situation.

AAP MLA Mehraj Malik, who was detained under the Public Safety Act last year after a public confrontation with the Doda deputy commissioner before the high court quashed the detention, shared a video of the confrontation on X and criticised the FIR against the Army personnel.

Retired Major General Raju Chauhan said on X that the Army and the J&K Police had developed "operational synergy rarely seen elsewhere" after decades of fighting terrorism together.

He said the deputy commissioner should have exercised greater restraint, and warned that "ego or high-headedness of one person" should not disrupt coordination between the two forces.

Former director general of J&K Police Shesh Paul Vaid termed incident "unfortunate", noting that Army and police worked "shoulder to shoulder" for decades against terrorists.

Rabri begins vacating Patna bungalow as deadline ends

PATNA, PTI: CCTV cameras have been uninstalled, and personal belongings removed as former Bihar chief minister Rabri Devi has begun vacating her bungalow at 10 Circular Road, with the deadline to leave the premises expiring on Monday.

Rabri Devi

Workers had started shifting house items since late Sunday evening.

"Most of Rabri Devi's belongings are currently being shifted to the family's private residence in Kautilya Nagar," an RJD leader said.

The developments came as the bungalow at 10 Circular Road had been allotted to Dairy and Fisheries Minister Nand Kishor Ram. Rabri Devi had been staying at that bungalow for around two decades.

On May 27, the building construction department allotted the bungalow to Ram. Since then, it has issued four notices asking Rabri Devi to vacate the premises.

The deadline is scheduled to expire on Monday, after which the residence is expected to be formally handed over to the new allottee.

Rabri Devi has been allotted house number 39 on Hardinge Road.

Pune court awards death penalty to 65-yr-old for toddler's rape, murder

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

A special court in Pune on Monday awarded a death sentence to a 65-year-old man convicted of raping and murdering a three-year-old girl in Nasrapur village, Pune.

The case was heard in a fast-track court following the incident. While pronouncing the judgement, the special court described the crime as heinous.

Additional Sessions Judge S R Salunkhe, who presided over a special court at Pune's Shivajinagar, pronounced the verdict ordering 65-year-old Bhimrao Kamble to be hanged till death.

On the other hand, Kamble's family had abandoned him since the incident on May 1.

"This is a historic case. This is a first in a case of kidnapping, molestation, rape and murder of a minor girl in which the trial was over in two months. The accused has been awarded three death sentences, three life sentences. It was a heinous crime," Special Public Prosecutor Ajay Misar told *DH* over the phone from Pune.

Judge's observations

Terming the case as "rarest of the rare" and "inhuman", the judge, who had convicted Kamble under Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS) and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) described the incident as torture on the young girl child.

"The offences relate to the commission of serious crimes like murder and rape by an accused with a prior record and a substantial history of serious assault," the court said. "The offence was committed outrageously and involved inhuman treatment and torture of the victim. The victim was an innocent, helpless child," the court noted.

KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
#49, "Parisara Bhavan", 1st to 5th Floor, Church Street, Bengaluru-560001, Karnataka,
Phone: 25581383, 25589112, 25586520, Fax: 080-25586321
E-mail: ho@kspcb.gov.in, Website: https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in
NO.PCB/01/SEO/MINES/EPH/2026-27/1177 DATE:29/06/2026

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION

M/s. Ranjitpura Infrastructure Private Limited has proposed to undertake Expansion of existing Sponge Iron capacity from 190 TPD to 375 TPD (Existing 2x95 TPD kilns will be utilized as Roasting kiln in Beneficiation Plant and installation of new 1x375 TPD kiln for Sponge iron Manufacturing), Iron Ore Beneficiation Plant from 0.48 MTPA to 1.180 MTPA for producing 0.05 MTPA beneficiated Manganese Ore and 1.13 MTPA beneficiated Iron ore plant and establishment of Iron Ore Pellet Plant of 0.85 MTPA, 10000 Nm3/Hr Coal Gasifier plant and 10 MW Captive power plant in a total area 94.63 Hectares (Existing Area: 83.79 Hectares; Proposed Additional Area: 10.84 Hectares) at **Sy. No. 39, 40/1, 42/1, 42/2, 43/1, 43/2, 43/3, 45, 53, 53/1, 54, 55 and 56 of Ranjitpura Village, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District.** This project proposal falls under Category 'A', Activity 3(a) – 'Metallurgical Industries (Ferrous and Non-Ferrous)', 1(d) – 'Thermal Power Plant', 2(b) – 'Mineral Beneficiation' and 2(c) –'Pellet Plant', as per the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and its amendments".
As per the Environment Impact Assessment Notification dated:14.09.2006 and its Amendment dated:01.12.2009, the project proponent has to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India and is required to go through the process of Environmental Public Hearing. As per the Terms of Referenceletter vide F. No. J-11011/358/2025-IA-II(Ind-I) dated: 09.10.2025 and its amendment in Terms of Reference dated: 23.12.2025 issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India and request letter of the project proponent dated:12.02.2026and the Environmental Officer, Regional Office, Ballariletter dated: 10.06.2026 intimating the date, the Environmental Public Hearing is being conducted by the KSPCB.
The details of the project are as follows:

1. Name & Address of the Project Proponent : M/s. Ranjitpura Infrastructure Private Limited Plot No. 19, Ward No. 30, 1st Floor, Sadgurum Complex, 1st Cross, Inna Reddy Colony, Ballari District – 583 104
2. Location of the proposed Project: Sy. No. 39, 40/1, 42/1, 42/2, 43/1, 43/2, 43/3, 45, 53, 53/1, 54, 55 and 56 of Ranjitpura Village, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District
3. Details of proposed Project : Proposed to undertake Expansion of existing Sponge Iron capacity from 190 TPD to 375 TPD (Existing 2x95 TPD kilns will be utilized as Roasting kiln in Beneficiation Plant and installation of new 1x375 TPD kiln for Sponge iron Manufacturing), Beneficiation Plant from 0.48 MTPA to 1.180 MTPA for producing 0.05 MTPA beneficiated Manganese Ore and 1.13 MTPA beneficiated Iron ore plant and establishment of Iron Ore Pellet Plant of 0.85 MTPA, 10000 Nm3/Hr Coal Gasifier plant and 10 MW Captive power plant in a total area 94.63 Hectares (Existing Area: 83.79 Hectares; Proposed Additional Area: 10.84 Hectares)
4. Date, time and venue of Environmental Public Hearing: Date: 30.07.2026 (Thursday) Time: 11:00 AM Place: Proposed Project Site, Ranjitpura Village, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District

5. Places of availability of project documents as per EIA Notification, which is kept open to public are: (a) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Ballari District, Ballari. **(b)** Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat, Ballari District, Ballari. **(c)** District Industries Centre, Ballari District, Ballari. **(d)** Tahasildar Office, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District. **(e)** Department of Mines & Geology, Ballari. **(f)** Town Municipal Council, Sandur, Ballari District. **(g)** Gram Panchayat Office, Narasingapura Village (Ranjitpura Village), Sandur Taluk, Ballari District. **(h)** Gram Panchayat Office, Devagiri Sandur Taluk, Ballari District. **(i)** Gram Panchayat Office, Narayanapura, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District. **(j)** Office of the Zonal Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Vijayanagara. **(k)** Office of the Regional Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ballari. **(l)** Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, South Zone Office, E-3/240, Kendriya Sadan, 4th Floor, E & F Wing, 17th Main Road, 2nd Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru – 560034. **(m)** HELP DESK, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ground Floor, No. 49, ParisaraBhavana, Church Street, Bengaluru – 560001.
Note: Suggestions, views, comments and objections of interested bonafide residents, environmental groups and others located at project site and likely to be affected by the proposed project are invited within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notification to make oral/written/E-Mail suggestions to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board/Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee (Deputy Commissioner, Ballari District, Ballari). Interested public can participate in the Public Hearing at the above place. For details please visit our Website: **https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in/.**
Sd/-
Member Secretary

INSTITUTE OF NEPHRO-UROLOGY
(Government of Karnataka-Autonomous Institute-Regd. No.1052/03-04)
Victoria Hospital Campus, Bengaluru-02. e-Mail: nephrourology.institute@gmail.com
Website: www.nephrourology.karnataka.gov.in
No: INU/ADMN/PROC/205/2026 Date: 29.06.2026

NOTIFICATION

Institute of Nephro-Urology, Victoria Hospital Campus, Bengaluru-02 invites tenders from the eligible tenderers through the Electronic Tenders for the following subjects
- **SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF COMPUTERS.** Last Date For Online Submission of Tender is **14.07.2026 at 5.30 P.M**
- **SUPPLY OF MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS. (SHORT-TERM TENDER)** Last Date For Online Submission of Tender is **06.07.2026 at 5.30 P.M**

For any further details please log on to: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Note: For any further information and announcements regarding this tender please keep on watching our website i.e., **https://nephrourology.karnataka.gov.in/**

Sd/- Director, Institute of Nephro-Urology, Bengaluru

Government of Karnataka
The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Hassan Division, Hassan.
No: EE/PWD/HSN/JE-03/2026-27/ DATED: 25.06.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 17/2026-27, Dated: 25.06.2026

Tender is invited by the Public Works Department on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000, Standard Tender Document KW-3 & KW-4 from the eligible registered Contractors of Karnataka PWD. Tenders Invited through E-Procurement for total Number of 6 Works under PWD Hassan Division. The minimum estimated amount is Rs.110.00 Lakhs and maximum estimated amount is Rs.200.00 Lakhs. The amount mentioned in tender notification is sanctioned estimated cost, but EMD & class of contractor is considered based on amount put to tender which excludes GST & other charges. Last date & time for receipt of tender is on 14.07.2026 @ 16.00 hours. For more details visit https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or contact this office through Phone No. 08172-268437 or in person during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD, Hassan Division, Hassan.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೫/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/280/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿ/2026–27

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned by Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
CIN - U04010KA2002SGC030438

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal)

BESCOM, Bengaluru invites tenders for the following Civil Engineering works coming under Bengaluru Metropolitan Area Zone through e-procurement portal in two cover system.
Enquiry No. BESCOM/2025-26/BD/WORKS_INDENT 1041 CALL-III for Construction of meeting hall head room, parapet wall, providing lift and other allied works to S-14 Sub division office, Jayanagar Division, BESCOM, Bengaluru. **Estimated amount :** Rs.130.00 lakhs. **Estimated Amount put to tender :** Rs. 110.16 Lakhs. **Earnest Money Deposit :** Rs. 1.66 lakhs.
Time Schedule: (a) Pre bid Meeting date and time : **04.07.2026 @ 15.00 Hrs**. **(b)** Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/Clarifications : **10.07.2026 up to 17.30 Hrs. (c)** Last Date & Time for Receipts of Tenders : **15.07.2026 up to 11.00 Hrs. (d)** Date & time of Opening Technical bid : **16.07.2026 at 11.30 Hrs. (e)** Date & time of Opening Price bid : Will be intimated after technical evaluation to the responsive bidder.
The details regarding participation in the tender can be obtained through e-procurement by visiting web site **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Karnataka public Procurement portal on or after **01.07.2026**. For any clarification contact e-procurement helps desk +91-80-46010000, +91-8068948777 or e-mail to **support@ihelpdsk.com.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Ele),
Bengaluru Metropolitan Area South Zone,BESCOM

For electricity related complaints call : 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಧಾರವಾಡ. ದೂ.: 0836–2747944, ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: eepwddha@gmail.com

ಕ್ರಸಂ: ಕಾನಿಇಂಧಾ/ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ/ಪಿ.ಬಿ. 4/2026–27/1554 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.06.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

I.F.T – KW –2,4
ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡರವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ 2000 ರನ್ವಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–2, 3 & 4 ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. (kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿದ **ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ರೂ. 50.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ಗರಿಷ್ಟ ರೂ. 900.00 ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ: 5054–80–190–0–01–132 ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ–ಬಂಡವಾಳ ವೆಚ್ಚ -PHASE-2, 2059-80-053-4-00-200 ವಿವಿಧ ಇಲಾಖಾ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ದುರಸ್ತಿ/ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ, 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ, 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳ ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ 4059–80–051–0–60–132 ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಬಂಡವಾಳ ವೆಚ್ಚ ಅಡಿ, 5054 ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ ಸುಧಾರಣೆ. 4059–80–051–0–60–132 ಕೇವಣಿ ವಂತಿಕೆ, 3054 ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ, & 4059–80–051–0–29–386 ಇಲಾಖಾ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.**

ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ:
1) PWD/2026-27/BR/WORK_ INDENT 37133, 2) PWD/2026-27/BR/WORK_ INDENT 37135, 3) PWD/2026-27/BR/WORK_INDENT37070, 4) PWD/2026-27/BG/WORK_INDENT37176, 5) PWD/2026-27/BR/WORK_INDENT36364, 6) PWD/2026-27/BR/WORK_INDENT37105, 7) PWD/2026-27/BR/WORK_ INDENT 36633 8) PWD/2026-27/BR/WORK_INDENT37246, 9) PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT34990/Call-2, 10) PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_ INDENT 31543/call-2, 11) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT34312/Call-2, (12) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT34417/Call-2, 13) PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_ INDENT 34409/Call-3, (14) PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT34799/Call-2, 15) PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT34272/CALL-2, 16) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT33455/Call-3, 17) PWD/2026-27/PREQUAL_TENDER_NUMBER_45, 18) PWD/2023-24/RD/WORK_INDENT8444, 19) PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT29190/CALL-5, 20) PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT 27630/CALL-6

Calendar of Events: 1) ಪ್ರಿಬಿಡ್/ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಯನ್ನು /ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21–07–2026 (ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 12:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ)** 2) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ **ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22–07–2026 (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 04:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ)** 3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23–07–2026 (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 04:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ)** 4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24–07–2026 (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 04:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ)**
ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಅಂತರ್‌ಜಾಲ ವಿಳಾಸ **http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಚೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್/ಧಾರವಾಡ/366/ಮಣಿಪಾಲ್/2026–27

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ.

ಕಾವೇರಿ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಒಂದು ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,ನಂ.7, ಹೇಮಾವತಿ ಎಡದಂಡೆ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ,ಕಾವೇರಿ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ, (ನಿ), ನಾಗಮಂಗಲ. ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08234–200058
ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08234–200058
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: eeno7nag@gmail.com

ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:02/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ:23.06.2026
(ಏತ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ)

ಏತ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಣಿಯಾಗಿರುವ 1ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ) ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. 01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಠೇವಣಿಯನ್ನು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:30.06.2026 ರಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:–17.07.2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, Pre bid Meeting ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.07.2026 ರಂದು ಮುಖ್ಯ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಗೊರೂರು, ಹಾಸನ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.07.2026 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಗಳು. ನಂತರ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಹತೆ ಪಡೆದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23.07.2026 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.5103.49 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 51,03,500.00 ಗಳಾಗಿದ್ದು (ರೂ. ಒಂದು ಲಕ್ಷಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮತ್ತು ಉಳಿದ ಹಣವನ್ನು ಅನುಸೂಚಿತ ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್‌ನ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಗ್ಯಾರಂಟಿ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಾವತಿಸಿ ಅದರ ಸ್ಕ್ಯಾನ್ ಪ್ರತಿಯನ್ನು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಪ್ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡುವುದು), ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ವಿವರ, ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂ ಬೆಲೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ ಮುಂತಾದ ಇತರೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸದರಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ನಂ.7, ಹೇಮಾವತಿ ಎಡದಂಡೆ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ನಾಗಮಂಗಲ

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೫/ಹಿಸನಿ–ಮಂ/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿ&ಎ/235/2025–26

Government of Karnataka - Water Resources Department
Bhadra Command Area Development Authority
Engineering Division, Malavagoppa,
Nidhige Post Office, Shivamogga – 577222
No.:BCS/E.Div./T.Section/Tender/26-27/204 D: 25.06.2026

Short-Term Tender Notice Tender invited as per Kg-2
(IFT – 06/2026-27)

Head of Account: 4705-Capital Grant
On behalf of the Hon'ble Administrative Officer, Bhadra CADA, Shivamogga, the Executive Engineer, Engineering Division, Bhadra Command Area Development Authority, Malavagoppa, Shivamogga invites detailed competitive Short-Term Tenders in two cover system through KPP Portal as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act – 1999, Rules – 2000 and Regulations 2017 from Manufacturers /Distributors/Authorised Suppliers for providing Machineries to facilitate Weeding, planting of saplings and digging holes to plant the crops in the lands of farmers coming in the limits of Water User Co-operative Societies in the jurisdiction of Catchment Area, Bhadrs CADA, Malavagoppa, Shivamogga.
Details are as below: **1.** Date for accessing Tender in KPP Portal: From 29.06.2026 to 10.07.2026. **2.** Last date for submission of filled Bids: 10.07.2026 up to 4.00 PM. **3.** Date of opening Technical Bid (two cover system): 13.07.2026 after 11.00 AM. **4.** Date of opening Financial Bid: 15.07.2026 after 11.00 AM.
Further information regarding Goods/Equipment can be obtained from the office of Engineering Division, Bhadra CADA, Shivamogga during office hours or through website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Engineering Division, Bhadra CADA, Shivamogga.

DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/127/06/439

'Nothing new, nothing special': Misri on India-Pak Track-II talks

Says private dialogues have no official backing or significance for the Indian govt

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

As reports of Indian and Pakistani politicians, retired diplomats, and military veterans holding Track-II dialogues created a flutter in New Delhi, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Monday said such events were neither new nor special and were private, not official.

Misri told journalists in Victoria on the third day of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Seychelles: "Dozens of these kinds of events take place in dozens of places around the world on a whole variety of subjects. There's nothing new, nothing special about these events."

Some eminent Indian and Pakistani personalities recently held a Track-II dialogue in Colombo without any official involvement of the governments. It followed similar talks in Bangkok.

> **VIKRAM MISRI**
> Foreign Secretary
>
> "They do not in any way, they cannot in any way represent the view of the government of India. So that is the other important thing to keep in mind.

There were two more rounds of similar dialogue over the past few months, the source said, adding that some strategic affairs analysts, former diplomats, and retired military officials of both nations participated in them.

"As far as we are concerned, these are private events organised by private parties. There is nothing official about them as far as we are concerned," Misri said on Monday.

'No official participation'

Though no serving Indian diplomat was present at the Colombo dialogue, a Union Ministry of Foreign Affairs official from Pakistan was there.

"I cannot speak for the Pakistan government, but as far as the Indian government is concerned, there is no official participation, no official support or involvement, in these visits," Misri said.

"Anybody from India participating in these events—whether they are retired diplomats, retired military officials, or civil-society members—speaks for themselves and represents their own point of view. They do not, cannot in any way represent the Indian government's view," said the foreign secretary.

"We really take no cognisance of these events. They really don't hold much value as far as we are concerned," he said.

'Blatant act of aggression': India decries Pak strikes on Afghanistan

NEW DELHI, PTI: India on Monday strongly condemned Pakistan's air strikes on Afghan territory in which several civilians were killed, calling them a "blatant act of aggression" and a "direct threat" to regional peace and stability.

In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) also said, "It reflects Pakistan's persistent pattern of reckless behaviour and its futile attempt to externalise internal failures through desperate acts of violence beyond its borders."

Pakistan on Monday said its security forces killed 29 militants in a ground operation near the Afghan border and subsequent cross-border strikes, as Islamabad and Kabul summoned each other's charge d'affaires to lodge diplomatic protests over the latest escalation.

However, the Afghan foreign ministry in a series of posts on X alleged that Pakistani air strikes on residential areas killed 36 civilians, including women and children, and injured 163 others. It described the strikes as a violation of international law, humanitarian principles and Afghanistan's sovereignty.

In its statement, the MEA said, "India strongly condemns Pakistan's air-strikes on Afghan territory that have resulted in several civilian casualties, including women and children. This blatant act of aggression by Pakistan is an assault on Afghanistan's sovereignty and a direct threat to regional peace and stability."

Naga groups refuse to end blockade, vow to intensify stir

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

At least four prominent Naga organisations in Senapati district on Monday decided to continue with the economic blockade despite a united forum of the Kukis served a 48-hour deadline to end blockade on Sunday.

The Naga bodies—the Naga People's Organisation (NPO), Tribes Hohos, Senapati District Women Association and Senapati District Students' Association—said they would strengthen the agitation and prevent inter-district supply of commodities to Kangpokpi through NH-2 till justice is delivered in the killing of six hostages. Kangpokpi is Kuki-dominated while Senapati is a Naga-dominated district.

The tension between the two communities continues to run high even after the Kuki Zo Council (KZC) apologised on June 25 for the killing of the six Naga villagers.

The United Naga Council, an influential apex body of the Nagas, imposed the "economic blockade" on June 17, 3 days after the hostages were killed.

"To forgive is an integral part of Christianity, but the apology offered by KZC is unacceptable due to the brutality and inhuman attitude shown by the Kuki organisations... They not only killed our six persons but also barbarically butchered them. So, justice must be delivered by arresting all those involved and acting against armed group, KNF (P) involved in this case," a Naga leader in Manipur told *DH*.

Nagas and Kukis are Christians and the church bodies had appealed to both the communities to release the hostages on humanitarian grounds.

Among the demands of the Naga council are arrest of chief of Leilon Vaiphei Kuki village, from where the six Nagas were waylaid and abducted, action against a few Manipur police personnel, who were allegedly involved in the crime, declaring KNF (P) as a terrorist group, abrogation of the Suspension of Operations Agreement with Kuki armed groups and resignation of Deputy Chief Minister Nemcha Kipgen, a Kuki.

Physical disability alone can't decide motor accident compensation: SC

NEW DELHI, DHNS: In a significant ruling, the Supreme Court has held that compensation for permanent disability under the Motor Vehicles Act cannot be mechanically calculated by applying the percentage of physical disability as the measure of economic loss.

The court emphasised that functional disability affecting a person's earning capacity—depending on their vocation—could be much higher, even up to 100%.

A bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and N V Anjaria made the observation while substantially enhancing the compensation awarded to a Tamil Nadu mason who lost his right leg in a road accident.

The apex court raised the total compensation payable to M Paramesh from Rs 23.86 lakh, awarded by the Madras High Court, to Rs 40.29 lakh, directing the insurance company to deposit the amount with 7.5% interest within six weeks.

On April 18, 2017, Paramesh, then around 30 years old and working as a mason earning about Rs 20k a month, was riding a bicycle when a Karnataka-registered truck hit him. His right leg had to be amputated above the knee. A competent authority certified his permanent physical disability at 70%.

However, in its judgment on June 23, 2026, the Supreme Court noted that both the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal and the High Court erred by restricting the loss of earning capacity to the same 70% figure.

"The court also corrected computational errors made by the high court, including the wrong application of future prospects on income and the omission of certain heads of compensation that had not been disturbed."

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

BOY, SPRING SURE GOT HERE QUICK!
IT SURE DID!
IT SEEMS LIKE JUST YESTERDAY WE WERE RAKING LEAVES AND SHOVELING SNOW
AND SOON WE'LL BE MOWING THE LAWN
THE SEASONS DON'T REALLY GIVE US A BREAK, DO THEY?

Hagar The Horrible

VIKINGS WANTED SHOW US YOUR SKILLS!
VERY NICE, BUT WE'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WHO PERFORMS DIRTY TRICKS!
VIKINGS WANTED SHOW US YOUR SKILLS!

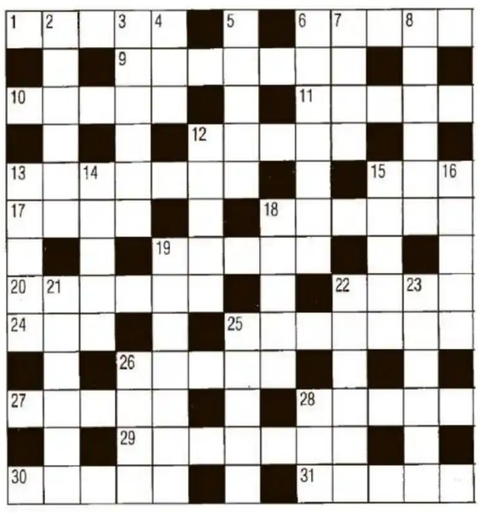
Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

HERE'S THE WORLD WAR I FLYING ACE WALKING ALONG A COUNTRY ROAD IN FRANCE...
HE NOTICES A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG GIRL APPROACHING FROM THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION...HE SPEAKS..
BONJOUR, SWEETIE!
SHE IS NOT IMPRESSED BY HIS FLUENT FRENCH

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12449



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 New name for Mr Lee (5)
6 Avoids the jumps? (5)
9 In an Irish county, an artist has a mobile home (7)
10 Slightly less clever, but easy to enjoy (5)
11 Someone to coddle (5)
12 You'll admit the town centre has everything (5)
13 Rather elderly for such speed? (7)
15 It's of great value in management (3)
17 Poke softly with a stick (4)
18 A paint surface? (6)
19 Look disdainfully both ways, always? (5)
20 Possibility of a companion getting the cane, maybe? (6)
22 For this penetrating word, I trust to love! (4)
24 Fish in the Elbe (3)
25 One apt to swoon, being weaker? (7)
26 A little collection of alms ñ a bit of help (5)
27 Teasingly long piece? (5)
28 Girl to see in the part of a lady? (5)
29 A refreshing place (7)
30 Creature unable to multiply? (5)
31 Find how to make finance work profitably (5)

DOWN
2 Take your time with it in a new role! (6)
3 Sounded unoriginal (6)
4 One doing the dirty out of wrath? (3)
5 Ray's holding the money again, we gather (5)
6 It needn't contain Russian tea (7)
7 As you realise, it sounds discouraging (4)
8 Flower fertiliser (6)
12 A note shiftily to make up (5)
13 An additive used in hospices (5)
14 Like a number of singers (5)
15 Big Joe, a six-footer (5)
16 Police district or man, maybe (5)
18 Breaking a plate is a bit of a bloomer (5)
19 Hurry to spread a stupid scare about a politician (7)
21 He has a name for getting angry (6)
22 Eventually be punctual (2,4)
23 Can be rented - by a nurse? (6)
25 Generally she's not beastly! (5)
26 Something to work on constructively (4)
28 Pass for an officer (3)

ACROSS
1 Spanish snacks (5)
6 Direction (5)
9 Learn (4,3)
10 Reject scornfully (5)
11 Slightly drunk (5)
12 Focal point (5)
13 Flatfish (7)
15 Prosecute (3)
17 Parched with heat (4)
18 Defeated (6)
19 Couches (5)
20 Chokey (6)
22 Scorch (4)
24 Still (3)
25 Avaricious (7)
26 Land measures (5)
27 Edge (5)
28 Planet (5)
29 Irregular (7)
30 Look at minutely (5)
31 On the ocean (2,3)

DOWN
2 Seem or look (6)
3 Frightened (6)
4 Transgression (3)
5 Fool (5)
6 Surgical stitches (7)
7 Boy's name (4)
8 Paper handkerchief (6)
12 Japanese padded quilt (5)
13 Cheerful (5)
14 Lawful (5)
15 Guide (5)
16 Admission (5)
18 Foundation (5)
19 Magic (7)
21 Happening not long ago (6)
22 Choose (6)
23 Attractiveness (6)
25 Iron, for example (5)
26 Elderly (4)
28 By way of (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12448

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 3, G-raph 8, A-NG-Ry. 10, Ray-on 11, Duo 12, Blues 13, Fistful 15, Stage 18, E-rr 19, Styled 21, Diabolo 22, Arun(-del) 23, Saga 24, Sevil-le 26, Eve-Ned 29, Go-O 31, Roses 32, Showman 34, Valet 35, Su-M 36, Denim 37, Dummy 38, Se-in-e.
DOWN: 1, Undid 2, Prot-ein 4, Roll 5, Pr-est-o 6, Hast-Y 7, Forge 9, G-us 12, Bur-bled 14, Fra 16, Algae 17, Edgar 19, Sleight 20, Wager 21, Dukes 23, Slow-s up 24, Se-Sam-e 25, Lo-O 27, Voles 28, Nevis 30, Gamma 32, Sewn 33, Mum.

EASY
ACROSS: 3, Bombs 8, Penal 10, Rafts 11, Rot 12, Cruel 13, Pirates 15, Today 18, Don 19, Donate 21, Footman 22, Heir 23, Begs 24, Baghdad 26, Animal 29, Ail 31, Ronan 32, Kneecap 34, Naked 35, For 36, Demon 37, Tutor 38, Rasps.
DOWN: 1, Peril 2, Matador 4, Oars 5, Breton 6, Salon 7, Stoat 9, Nor 12, Central 14, Too 16, Dated 17, Yeast 19, Dab hand 20, Shear 21, Fit in 23, Baleful 24, Banana 25, Die 27, Novel 28, Manor 30, Carol 32, Kelp 33, Cot,.

◆ SU-DO-KU-6945 ◆

	2	9	8	4				
6		8	5					
4				6				
	4	5			6		2	9
1	3		7			6	5	
				9				2
					2	3		1
				1	5	9	7	

hard

SOLUTION TO 6944

5	1	4	7	2	9	6	8	3
9	3	8	6	1	4	5	7	2
6	7	2	8	3	5	9	1	4
2	4	7	1	6	3	8	9	5
1	6	5	4	9	8	3	2	7
3	8	9	5	7	2	4	6	1
7	9	1	3	5	6	2	4	8
4	5	6	2	8	7	1	3	9
8	2	3	9	4	1	7	5	6

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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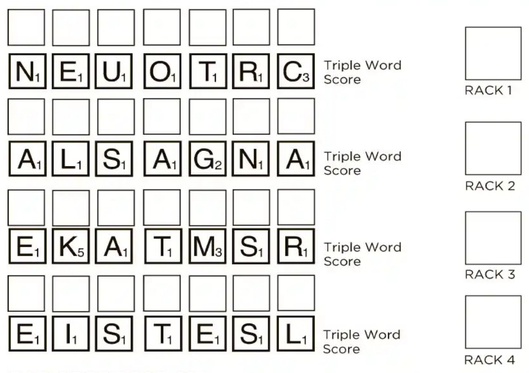

PAR SCORE 205-215
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

T R U S T E D	RACK 1	74
W R O N G	RACK 2	27
R U P T U R E	RACK 3	77
B I C E P S	RACK 4	36
PAR SCORE 140-150	JUDD'S TOTAL	214

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NOIYR
NUEPD
TBTURE
RJNOGA

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app · Follow us on Facebook
Rustical MOTEL
There we go. That looks like home for the night.
I'm beat.
12 18
THEY'D BEEN DRIVING FOR HOURS, SO WHEN THEY SAW THE MOTEL, THEY WERE ---

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers Tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ETHIC ABATE BRONCO WARMTH
Answer: When she saw that the fitness watch could track her pulse, she bought it — IN A HEARTBEAT

HITORI-3399

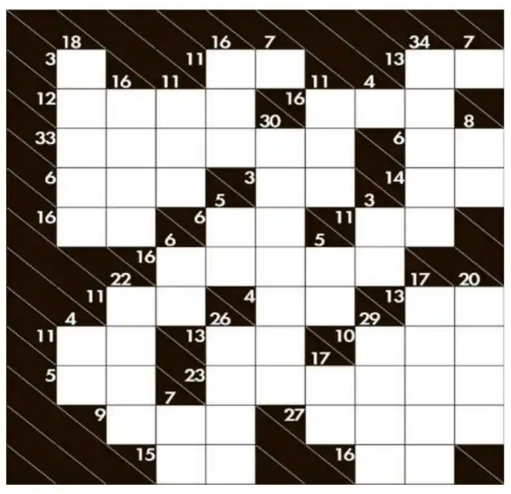
8	1	2	3	2	6	4	5
1	8	7	2	8	2	8	3
1	2	8	4	3	1	6	8
4	6	1	2	1	8	3	1
3	8	6	5	7	1	1	2
8	5	5	8	1	5	2	7
7	8	5	6	4	3	8	8
5	7	1	1	2	8	8	6

SOLUTION TO 3398

■	8	2	■	7	1	6	5
3	1	■	6	8	■	2	■
1	5	7	■	2	3	■	8
■	6	8	2	■	4	5	7
7	3	■	5	6	■	4	2
4	2	1	■	3	5	■	6
■	4	5	8	■	2	3	1
2	7	3	■	4	6	8	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3399



SOLUTION TO 3398

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3962

■			8	4		7		■
	■						■	
2		■				■	8	
			■	1	■			9
				7				
			■		4			
		6			7	1		
	■	5			3	2	■	6
■		8		6	1			■

SOLUTION TO 3961

1	6	5	2	3	4	8	7	9
9	4	3	6	7	8	5	2	1
8	7	2	9	5	1	4	3	6
7	8	4	5	9	6	3	1	2
6	3	1	7	8	2	9	4	5
5	2	9	1	4	3	7	6	8
2	9	7	3	1	5	6	8	4
4	5	6	8	2	7	1	9	3
3	1	8	4	6	9	2	5	7

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Aftershock rattles Venezuela as rescuers race to find survivors

Fresh quake compounds misery as thousands remain missing

LA GUAIRA (VENEZUELA), AP/PTI

A strong aftershock jolted Venezuela early on Monday following last week's devastating back-to-back earthquakes, as civilians and emergency responders continued combing through the ruins of collapsed buildings for survivors.

The aftershock, which struck about 27 km north of Caraballeda on Venezuela's Caribbean coast at 7:01 am local time, measured 4.6 on the Richter scale, according to the United States Geological Survey. Colombia's geological survey put the magnitude at 5.1.

Jorge Rodríguez, the leader of the Venezuelan National Assembly, said there were no immediate reports of additional damage from the quake, which sent residents in the capital, Caracas, screaming into the streets.

"Here we are again, back in the street. I don't know when we'll have a moment of true peace," said Concepcion Hernandez, 51, who evacuated her apartment in the Chacao municipality of Caracas.

Indian Air Force C-17 Globemaster III aircraft arrives at Maiquetía International Airport, Caracas, carrying 66 tonnes of humanitarian aid- including an Indian Army Field Hospital, over 35 tonnes of relief supplies, medicines and medical equipment, and two BHISHM Cubes, for Venezuela as part of post-earthquake relief efforts on Monday. IAF/PTI

Monday's tremor also shook the hard-hit port city of La Guaira, where local and international rescue teams have been racing against time since the twin earthquakes struck the northern state five days ago.

The government has reported 1,450 deaths from the quakes as it faces growing criticism from Venezuelans who say its response has been inadequate and overshadowed by civilian-led efforts to rescue people trapped under collapsed buildings. Thousands more have been reported missing. Even as the likelihood of finding people alive diminished with each passing hour, rescuers continued to pull some survivors from the debris, offering anguished families a sliver of hope. The first 48 to 72 hours after a natural disaster are crucial to rescue efforts, though survival can be extended if people have access to food and water.

Venezuela's acting President Delcy Rodriguez said that despite the passing of the critical time window, the search for survivors would continue.

Indian Army field hospital begins operations

An Indian Army field hospital, deployed in earthquake-hit Venezuela under Operation Amistad, has become fully operational and is providing free round-the-clock medical services, PTI reports.

The Indian Embassy in Venezuela said an Indian medical team comprising highly experienced doctors has established a camp at the International La Rinconada Racetrack in Caracas. The medical camp is "now fully operational. Services are open 24 hours. All services are free," it said. Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson also said that Operation Amistad is "underway" in Venezuela.

Shooting in northern Germany leaves 6 people dead

BERLIN, AP/PTI: A shooting at a youth welfare facility in northern Germany on Monday left six people dead, police said. The suspected shooter was arrested.

Five people – four women and one man – died at the scene of the shooting in Stade, police said. A sixth, also an adult, died later at a hospital.

Police said several people were wounded, some of them seriously, German news agency dpa reported, but they did not give a specific figure or information on the victims' identity.

Police said the shooting took place in the facility on Dankersstrasse, a street south of the town centre. The facility includes temporary accommodation for pregnant women or young mothers with children.

A main suspect was arrested, while another two people were subject to "police measures" on suspicion of involvement, police said in a statement. They didn't elaborate.

Video footage after the shooting showed a large police presence, along with other emergency service personnel and several ambulances on a residential street.

Police said they were working to establish the background and circumstances of the shooting.

Germany's gun laws are more restrictive than those in the United States, and mass shootings are rare but not unheard of.

Paris funeral homes overwhelmed after record heatwave

PARIS, AFP

France on Monday counted its heat-related deaths, as a funeral industry representative said Paris morgues have been overwhelmed by a spike in fatalities during a record-breaking heatwave.

French officials said on Sunday there had been around 1,000 more deaths than during the same period in previous months since Wednesday last week, when France was at its hottest since records began. Eighty-five percent of those who died were aged 65 and over, they said. The sharpest increases involved people dying at home, especially in Paris and its suburbs.

Few homes in France are equipped with air conditioning, and most schools are not designed to cope with extreme heat. Elisabeth Charrier, head of the National Funeral Federation, said funeral home occupancy -- which typically ranges between 30% and 45% during the summer -- has climbed above 66% nationwide.

In some locations, mortuaries reached full capacity, particularly in urban centres, she added. "The main difficulty is in central Paris, where the only two funeral homes have been at full capacity since last Friday," Charrier told AFP. She warned of a "domino effect" in the coming days. "What may complicate matters is the extension of waiting times for cremation slots or burial space in cemeteries," she added. "Cemetery staff cannot dig graves much faster, and cremation slots fill up very quickly."

Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu defended his government's response at a meeting on Monday, saying the measures put in place to deal with the historic temperatures had "held up well".

He said the first air conditioners ordered for hospitals would be delivered "at the end of the week."

People cool off at a mist fountain at Place du Trocadero during heatwave in Paris. AFP FILE

Top US court lets $5mn sex abuse verdict against Trump stand

Top court declines US Prez's appeal in Carroll case

WASHINGTON, NYT NEWS SERVICE

The Supreme Court on Monday declined a request by President Donald Trump to review a $5 million civil judgment against him after a jury found in 2023 that he sexually abused and defamed writer E. Jean Carroll.

The announcement by the justices did not include any reasoning, and no public dissents were noted. A second case arising from Carroll's allegations could also be headed to the Supreme Court. In January 2024, a separate jury ordered Trump to pay Carroll $83.3 million in damages for defaming her in 2019 after she accused him of a decades-old rape. Lawyers for Trump have said they plan to ask the justices to hear that case as well.

Still, Monday's decision is a major blow to Trump and likely marks the end of his legal efforts to contest the jury verdict finding that he assaulted Carroll in the mid-1990s in a department store dressing room.

It came after the court ruled in February that the president had overstepped his authority by imposing sweeping tariffs using emergency powers. That decision, which dealt a sharp blow to Trump's economic and foreign policy strategy, drew criticism from the president, who referred to the justices who voted against the tariffs as "fools and lap dogs" and a "disgrace to our nation".

In May 2023, a federal jury in New York found the president liable for sexually abusing and defaming Carroll. The jury agreed that Carroll, a former magazine writer, had sufficiently shown that Trump sexually abused her in a dressing room at the Bergdorf Goodman department store when the two crossed paths in the 1990s. The jury also found that Trump had defamed Carroll by posting a statement on social media calling her case "a complete con job" and "a hoax."

Sexual assault case against Trump
In May 2023, a New York jury found Trump liable for:
Sexual abuse
Defamation of writer E Jean Carroll
Jury awarded Carroll $5 million in damages
Another Case Pending
Separate jury awarded Carroll $83.3 million in January 2024
Trump's lawyers plan to seek SC review of that ruling as well
TIMELINE
1990s
Carroll says Trump assaulted her in a department store dressing room
2019
Trump publicly denies the allegation
May 2023
Jury awards Carroll $5 million
Dec 2024
Appeals court upholds verdict
June 2026
SC declines Trump's appeal

SC shields Fed governor Lisa Cook

WASHINGTON, AFP: The US Supreme Court on Monday fortified President Donald Trump's powers to fire members of independent government agencies, but carved out protections for the Federal Reserve by blocking the firing of Governor Lisa Cook.

In a 6-3 ruling, the court's conservative majority rejected a challenge by Democratic Federal Trade Commissioner Rebecca Slaughter, ruling that Trump had the power to fire "subordinates who exercise the President's power."

The decision is expected to have wide-ranging implications, with Trump having aggressively sought to expand executive powers as he works to transform the US government and place political allies in key positions.

Trump hailed the verdict. "This Decision was long sought by US presidents, dating all the way back to the 1930s," he posted on social media.

"It is such an Honor to be the sitting President who won this Historic and Unprecedented Ruling, one of the most important ever given with respect to Presidential Powers."

US, Iran pause strikes but disagree over talks

DUBAI, AP/PTI

President Donald Trump said Monday that Iran had requested a meeting with US counterparts, though one of Iran's top negotiators said no further talks had been scheduled after attacks across the Persian Gulf over the weekend challenged negotiations to end the war.

The US president has tried to preserve a fragile interim deal, but hostilities mounted in recent days in the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of the world's oil had been shipped before the war began. After four days of trading strikes, both sides appeared to pause their attacks on Monday.

Trump said on social media that a meeting with Iran would take place on Tuesday in Doha, Qatar.

Trump special envoy Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, the president's son-in-law, are flying to Qatar for the meeting, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told Fox News' "Fox & Friends." But Kazem Gharibabadi, a senior negotiator for Iran, denied that any talks had been scheduled.

The US and Iran agreed to an interim deal earlier this month that calls for Tehran to dilute its stockpile of enriched uranium. It also waives US-backed sanctions on the country while opening the Strait of Hormuz and giving each side 60 days to hammer out broader agreements.

Earlier on Monday, Iran's president said that $6 billion in frozen Iranian assets would be released by Qatar. Masoud Pezeshkian's mention of the funds appeared aimed at selling the interim deal to the Iranian public, particularly as its grip on the strait has been tested.

DOHA MEETING

- Iran said a delegation of experts would travel to Doha for discussions on the implementation of the MoU signed with the US. "An expert delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran will travel to Doha later this week," foreign ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei said.

Inmates take control of US jail

WINDSOR, AP/PTI: Inmates seized control of parts of a jail in North Carolina on Monday. Three guards and 88 inmates were inside the Bertie-Martin Detention Centre in Windsor when the takeover occurred.

Saudi Arabia, India sign water cooperation agreement

DUBAI, PTI: India and Saudi Arabia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to boost cooperation in water resource management, according to an official statement issued on Monday.

The agreement was signed during the inaugural edition of Saudi Arabia's national water conference, Saudi Water Week, being hosted in Jeddah. "A significant step in advancing the India–Saudi Arabia strategic partnership," the Indian Embassy in Riyadh said on Monday.

The MoU was signed by Indian Ambassador Suhel Khan and Abdulrahman Abdulmohsen AlFadley, Saudi Arabia's Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture. Consul General of India Fahad Suri was also present at the signing.

"The MoU aims to foster collaboration, strengthen capacity building, and facilitate the exchange of best practices in water resources planning, sustainable water management, irrigation systems and other related areas," the Indian mission said.

The agreement is expected to further deepen bilateral engagement in the water sector and related fields.

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Chief Engineer (CON)/S, South Eastern Railway, Garden Reach, Kolkata-700043 invites E-tender for the following work. Following tender has been uploaded on website **www.ireps.gov.in**. The tender will be closed **at 12.00 hrs.** on due date. **e-Tender Notice No.: 4587-GRC-CE-C-SO-20-2025, Date: 24.06.2026. Brief Description of work:** Request for Proposal (RFP) for Appointment of Project Supervision Services Agency (PSSA) for Providing Project Supervision Services at Various Construction Sites/Sections in the jurisdiction of Dy. CE/Con/Rourkela, Construction Organization, South Eastern Railway. **Approx. Cost:** ₹ 9.97 Crore. **Bid Security:** ₹ 19,94,400. **Completion Period:** Construction Period 24 months + DLP Period 6 months. **Closing Date:** 28.07.2026. Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tender for this item will be accepted. **N.B.:** Prospective bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all other tenders. **(PR-387)**

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
(Distt. - Saran), Bihar - 841221

E-Tender Notice No.05/RWP/Engg/2026-27/WT/(Open), Date 26.06.2026, The Dy.CE/RWP/Bela for and on behalf of the President of India, invites Online "e-Open Tender" through Indian Railways E- Procurement Portal (IREPS) **www.ireps.gov.in** for the following, works as detailed:- **1. Name of the work and Location, Approximate cost, Earnest money and Completion period of the Work:**-Tender No.- 11_RWP_Engg_26_27_WT_Open, **Name of work:-** Provision of steel flooring and concrete flooring in main plnat at RWP/Bela., **Approximate cost-** ₹7,20,85,854/-, **Tender form Cost-**Nil, **Earnest money-** ₹14,41,700/-, **Completion period of the work -** 06 Months, **Tender No.-** 12_RWP_Engg_26_27_WT_Open, **Name of Work:-** Supply and fixing motorised rolling shutter with 02 years warranty and further 5 years AMC in shop floor, store building and other location at RWP/Bela., **Approximate cost-** ₹1,03,21,043/-, **Tender form Cost-** Nil, **Earnest money-** ₹2,06,400/-, **Completion period of the work -** 06 Months, **Tender No.-** 13_RWP_Engg_26_27_WT_Open, **Name of Work:-** Construction of Office block, Staff rest room and Sub-store for Melt, Mould shop & WFPS at RWP/Bela., **Approximate cost-** ₹4,97,11,592/-, **Tender form Cost-** Nil, **Earnest money-** ₹9,94,200/-, **Completion period of the work -** 12 Months, **2. Tender closing date and time** 21.07.2026 upto 14:30 Hrs., **2. Website particulars and notice board location where complete details of tender can be obtained and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.,** The above tender can be submitted only by the date and time as mentioned in the notice., For full details and submission of bid kindly visit Portal (IREPS) **www.ireps.gov.in.,** The prospective firms/bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with IREPS Portal (**www.ireps.gov.in**) for updates including Addendum/Corrigendum /Cancellation with respect to the above tender because no such any notice/ information concerned that shall be published in newspaper.

Dy. Chief Engineer, RWP/Bela
RWP/CPRO/ADVT/2026-27/42

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

CENTRAL HOSPITAL / PER
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SETTING UP OF CT/MRI SCAN CENTER NOTICE No. SR22LMB01RT5

Principal Chief Medical Director, New Railway Hospital, Ayanavaram, Chennai - 23 for and on behalf of the President of India, invites expression of interest from eligible scan centers for fixing the annual base premium for the project **"Establishing CT/MRI San center at New Railway Hospital, Ayanavaram, Chennai - 600 023 on a Public Private Partnership basis (On equip, Operate and Manage Model) for Ten years"** The RFP can be downloaded from the Southern Railway website **www.sr.indianrailways.gov.in** Department-Medical -Headquarters-Expression of Interest Documents - File name - Request for Proposal. The interested applicants shall submit their filled EOI application alongwith required documents to office of the Medical Director, Southern Railway, Central Hospital (old), Ayanavaram, Chennai - 23 on or before **10.07.2026 at 15.00 hours.** The Principal Chief Medical Director reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Principal Chief Medical Director/SR

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO. 16/SBC/26 of 15-06-2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Sl.	Description of work	Approx Value
1	**Assistant Divisional Engineer/Mandya Sub-Division**- Proposed Construction of Running Room at Bidadi (BID). (20 Beds). Maintenance period of 3 years	**Rs. 1,56,30,059/-**
2	**Divisional Engineer/West/Bengaluru Sec:KSR Bengaluru :** Proposed construction of boundary wall in and around Bengaluru area for a length of 1500 mtr. (2m height RR masonry and 1m fencing, Total 3m height) Maintenance period is 12 months	**Rs. 1,99,11,538/-**
3	**Divisional Engineer/West/Bengaluru Sec : Sub Work -I:** Bengaluru (SBC) - Improvements to the bituminous road surfaces in MG Colony at Bengaluru **Sub Work -II:** Proposed provision of Divyang facilities like tactile pathway at PF's to Divyang ramp, circulating area at Krishnadevaraya Halt (KNDV), Nayandahalli (NYH), Jnana Bharati Halt (GNB), Hejjala (HJL), Bidadi (BID), Ketohalli (KHLL), Settihalli (SET), Nidaghatta Halt (NZH), Hanakere (HNK), Maddur (MAD), Yeliyur (Y) between Bengaluru - Yeliyur section, under Assistant Divisional Engineer/Mandya jurisdiction. Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later.	**Rs. 95,25,997/-**
4	**Assistant Divisional Engineer/Mandya Sub-Division:** Constructionof OHT (Over Head Tank) of 1.00 lakh litre at Maddur (MAD) station, under Assistant Divisional Engineer/Mandya jurisdiction, including Electrical portion. Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later. (Composite tender)	**Rs. 92,86,411/-**
5	**Assistant Divisional Engineer/Mandya Sub-Division:** Jnana Bharathi - Halt (GNB - H) Stn : Proposed Extension of PF-1 and PF-2 for a length of 95.00 mts with 5 mtr width, Construction of 1 No's of Pay and use Toilet along with Divyanjan Toilet, Drinking water Booths, Platform Shelter at Jnanabharathi-H (GNB-H) station between Bengaluru - Yeliyur section, under Assistant Divisional Engineer/Mandya jurisdiction. Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later.	**Rs. 1,68,26,621/-**

Last date for submission of bids:**Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 14-07-2026**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Engineer /Co-Ordination Bengaluru

PUB/243/AAF/PRB/SWR/2026-27

Download the RailOne app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

Drug drone bound for India crashes in Pak

LAHORE, PTI: A drone carrying illegal drugs allegedly being smuggled to India crashed near the border area in Punjab province of Pakistan, an official said.

The incident took place in Narang Mandi area, some 70 km from Lahore, on Saturday. Narang Mandi is located approximately 8 km from the India-Pakistan border. Police said that 5kg of heroin was being smuggled to India from the Narang Mandi side through a drone when it crashed.

Senior police officer Bilal Zafar Sheikh said the police have seized the drone and contraband. They also cordoned off the crime spot and launched an investigation.

Pakistan forces kill 29 'militants' in Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD, PTI

Pakistan on Monday said its security forces killed 29 "militants" in a ground operation near the Afghan border and subsequent cross-border strikes, as Islamabad and Kabul summoned each other's charge d'affaires to lodge diplomatic protests over the latest escalation.

Pakistan summoned Afghanistan's charge d'affaires in Islamabad over the recent attack on a Pakistan Rangers headquarters in Karachi, alleging that Afghan nationals and Afghan territory were used to facilitate the assault.

Afghanistan, in turn, summoned Pakistan's charge d'affaires in Kabul to protest what it alleged were Pakistani air strikes on civilian homes in Kunar, Paktia and Paktika provinces, in violation of its airspace and sovereignty.

An Afghan resident clears rubble from his home at the site of a Pakistani airstrike in Barolo village, Afghanistan, on Monday. AFP

Pakistan said the military action was carried out in response to a series of recent militant attacks in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and on the Pakistan Rangers (Sindh) camp in Karachi.

Information Minister Atta Tarar said security forces conducted an intelligence-based ground operation against a group of militants near the Pakistan-Afghanistan border in Bajaur district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on June 28.

Tarar said four militants were killed in the Bajaur operation. It was followed by precision strikes carried out during the night of June 28-29 under 'Operation Ghazab lil-Haq', targeting what Pakistan described as militant camps and hideouts in Afghanistan's Paktia, Paktika and Kunar provinces.

Biz Bytes

Tech Mahindra partners with Perplexity

BENGALURU, DHNS: Tech Mahindra has partnered with AI firm Perplexity

to integrate AI-powered intelligence across its sales operations, providing customer-facing teams and senior sales leaders with real-time business, industry and technology insights. Mohit Joshi (in pic), CEO & MD, Tech Mahindra, said, "By integrating Perplexity Enterprise Pro into our sales processes, we are empowering our teams with trusted, real-time intelligence that helps them better understand customer priorities."

Govt plans scheme for green tech in steel sector

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Union Government is planning to introduce a scheme to promote the adoption of clean technologies in steel-making processes with an outlay of Rs 5,000 crore, according to an official.

The move is aimed at reducing carbon emissions from the domestic steel industry. The scheme named National Strategy for Sustainable Secondary Steel is expected to be launched in the next three months, a senior government official told PTI."The scheme may go for approval of the Union Cabinet," another official in the know of the development said.

India, Maldives begin FTA negotiations

NEW DELHI, PTI: India and the Maldives on Monday began negotiations for a FTA, the commerce department said.

The discussions are being conducted in virtual mode and are scheduled from June 29 to July 7, it said."The Indian government has officially commenced the first round of negotiations for a bilateral FTA with the Republic of Maldives," the department said in a social media post.

In a trade agreement, two countries either significantly reduce or eliminate import duties on the maximum number of goods traded between them.

Zerodha plans to foray into investment banking space

NEW DELHI, PTI: Online brokerage firm Zerodha has applied to capital markets regulator Sebi for a merchant banking licence as it looks to expand its financial services offerings.

The application was filed through its wholly-owned subsidiary Zerodha Corporate Advisors Pvt Ltd, according to Sebi records.

The application, submitted on April 27, is currently under review.

If the licence is granted, Zerodha will be able to manage IPOs, advise companies on fund raising and offer other merchant banking services.

BEML gets $5.35 mn export order from West Asia

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru-based defence PSU BEML Limited has won an additional export order valued at $5.35 million (about Rs 50 crore) from the West Asia region for supplying heavy earth-moving equipment for infrastructure development applications. Earlier, the company had received an export order worth $36.38 million from the same client. With this additional order, the company's total export order size has gone up to $112.35 million.

India's industrial output growth rises to 5.1% in May

Electricity, manufacturing power growth; mining shrinks

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

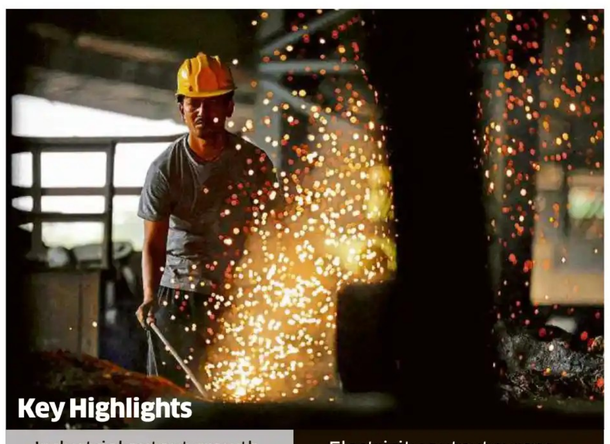
India's industrial output growth accelerated to 5.1% in May, driven by strong demand for electricity amid heatwaves in several parts of the country, as per official data on Monday.

Electricity output growth surged to 11.1% in May, from 5.5% recorded in the previous month. Higher electricity output led to 57 basis points increase in overall industrial production in May, when compared with the previous month. However, it was partly offset by weaker performance across other sectors.

The May print was higher than 4.9% expansion recorded in the previous month and 3.4% recorded in May 2025. This marks the second month of industrial output data as per the new Index of Industrial Production (IIP) series with 2022-23 as the base year, which has replaced the 2011-12 series. Manufacturing, which carries the largest weight (76.062%) in the IIP, posted 5.5% year-on-year growth in May, slower than 6.1% expansion recorded in the previous month. However, it was significantly higher than 4.2% growth recorded in May 2025.

Four of the six used based segments, barring intermediate goods and infrastructure/construction goods, witnessed an improvement in their growth performance in May 2026, relative to April 2026. The consumer durables and non-durables segments recorded the highest growth in five months, in May 2026.

Domestic demand remained resilient, with the consumer sectors clocking a cumulative growth of 5.1% (vs 2.5% in April). "High-frequency data shows urban demand was the driver of domestic demand," said Dipti Deshpande, Principal Economist, Crisil.



Key Highlights

- Industrial output growth accelerates to **5.1%** in May, up from **4.9%** in April and **3.4%** a year ago
- Electricity output surges **11.1%**, driven by heat-wave-led demand, emerging as the biggest growth driver
- Manufacturing expands **5.5%**, while mining contracts **1.6%** for the fifth straight month
- Consumer demand strengthens, with durable and non-durable goods posting their fastest growth in five months

Water supply, sewerage and waste management grew 5.5% during the month under review. Mining and quarrying, however, contracted 1.6%. Mining output witnessed a contraction for the fifth consecutive month in May, although the extent of the same narrowed vis-à-vis 3.8% contraction recorded in April.

Within the manufacturing sector, 16 out of 23 industry groups grew on a year-on-year basis during the month under review.

Like previous months, electrical equipment, and motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers continued to surge at 20.8% and 14.5%, respectively.

"Electrical equipment continued to report growth due to small transformers, circuit breakers, and others. Manufacture of basic metals also performed well on the back of steel," said Megha Arora, Director, India Ratings and Research.

However, India's traditional export sectors like leather and apparel registered a year-on-year decline in output. Petroleum products output also contracted.

"On the used based side, the uptick in consumer goods production — both durable and non-durable goods — is a positive signal. However, its durability of recovery in the consumption needs monitoring amid ongoing geopolitical volatility, inflationary pressures, and slow progress of the monsoon," said Rajani Sinha, Chief Economist, CareEdge Ratings.

"Global economic and geopolitical conditions remain volatile, despite the recent ceasefire in the West Asia crisis. India's industrial sector, particularly export-oriented industries, could face headwinds from the uncertain external environment," she added.

Persistent-Nagarro deal: Cross-selling to create value

The group to be 7th-largest tech services company in India

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Pune-based mid-tier IT firm Persistent Systems' €1.27 billion all-cash acquisition of Munich-headquartered digital engineering company Nagarro will boost the former's European expansion plans. Persistent and Nagarro are combining to create a $2.9-billion trans-atlantic AI-led engineering powerhouse, and the combined group is better-positioned to support multi-region enterprise clients requiring integrated engineering, ERP, CX, data, AI and cloud capabilities across local and global delivery models.

Analysts said value-creation will largely come from revenue synergies, account mining, cross-selling, broader service offerings and geographic expansion, rather than cost-consolidation. They mentioned that there are fewer than 10 meaningful client overlaps, while the combined entity will have over 350 $1-million+ clients, providing a large mining opportunity. Management indicated that some tail rationalisation may be possible, but cost synergies will largely be reinvested into growth.

JM Financial, in its note, said Persistent and Nagarro are a perfect strategic fit, combining Persistent's AI-led engineering leadership, North American scale and partnership depth with Nagarro's European business, complementary verticals, AI expertise, and ERP and CX delivery, to create a $2.9-billion AI-led engineering powerhouse with over 46,000 employees across 40 countries.

At the analyst call, the company highlighted that the combined entity will have a more balanced geographic mix, with North America reducing from 81%+ of Persistent revenue to about 62% of combined revenue, while Europe increases to 22% and RoW to about 16%. JM Financial said the management also highlighted that the combination would make Persistent the second-largest digital engineering company globally and the seventh-largest India-listed technology services company.

Persistent, which has a strong a North American footprint, clocked $1,654 million in revenue in FY26, and its market capitalisation as on March 31, 2026, stood at $8.1 billion.

Meanwhile, Persistent-Nagarro Group will become a combined AI powerhouse, expanding into physical and industrial AI through Nagarro's automotive, manufacturing and IoT/OT depth and expertise.

Anand Deshpande, Founder and CMD, Persistent Systems, said, "AI is reshaping our industry at an unprecedented pace. Success will belong to companies that combine deep technical capability with global reach, while continuing to attract, develop and inspire exceptional people. Together, Persistent and Nagarro will be better positioned to help our clients navigate this new era, create greater opportunities for our teams, and build an organisation that will endure for many years to come.

Manas Human, Co-Founder and CEO, Nagarro, said, "With the combined strengths of Persistent and Nagarro, we'll be able to deliver the complex intelligence transformation programs that our clients are increasingly demanding."

Ex-CEC Rajiv Kumar appointed HDFC Bank Chairman

NEW DELHI, PTI: The HDFC Bank board on Monday appointed former Finance Secretary Rajiv Kumar as its new chairman. The board approved the appointment of Kumar as an Independent Director of the bank for a period of four years, with effect from June 30, 2026, HDFC Bank said in a filing.

It also cleared, subject to approval of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the appointment, including remuneration of Kumar as a Part-time Chairman of the bank for a period of three years, effective from the date as approved by the central bank, it said.

Rajiv Kumar

Kumar, who later served as the 25th Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India, is also credited with creating a world record of overseeing a general election, where the largest number of voters were involved, globally.

He would replace Atanu Chakraborty, who abruptly resigned, citing ethical concerns in March.

As Secretary, Department of Financial Services (2017-20), Kumar assumed charge at a time when public sector banks were grappling with high levels of unrecognised NPAs, capital inadequacy, equity and debt being diverted, governance challenges, including large consortiums, NBFCs struggling to fill micro credit gaps post demonetisation, Ponzi schemes sucking little savings of the poor, etc, the bank said in his profile.

Within a fortnight of Kumar's joining the Department of Financial Services, accounts of about 3.38 lakh shell companies were frozen, hitting at the architecture of black money itself. Curbs on Ponzi schemes followed, by getting the Banning of Unregulated Deposits Schemes Act, 2019, passed, it said.

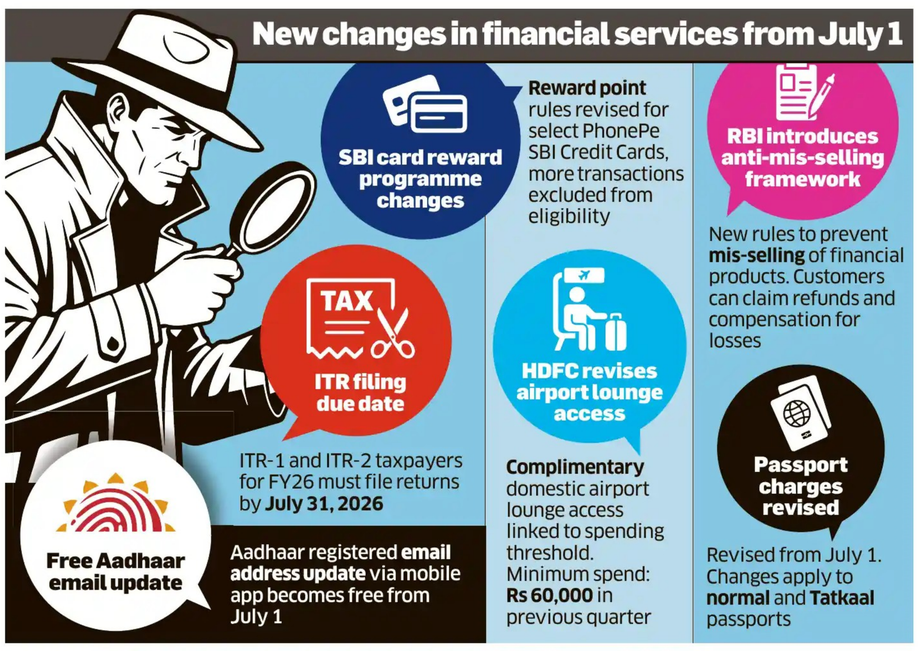
Through decisive policy direction and execution, Kumar led a comprehensive clean-up of bank balance-sheets by mandating transparent recognition and provisioning of NPAs and by enforcing accountability among borrowers under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code framework, it added.

"His approach addressed the long-standing twin balance sheet problem by restoring credit discipline and rebooting the creditor-debtor relationship. These efforts, structured around the '4R strategy' of Recognition, Resolution, Recapitalisation, and Reforms, enabled a sharp turnaround in the banking sector, with public sector banks returning to sustained profitability and improved asset quality," it said.

His tenure saw decisive action against illicit financial practices, strengthening regulatory oversight of cooperative banks, and enforcing accountability in high-profile default cases.

For loans of Rs 50 crore and above, passport details became mandatory, closing the door on big borrowers who might flee before action caught up, it added.

A key pillar of this transformation was the unprecedented recapitalisation of PSBs, involving capital infusion exceeding Rs 3 lakh crore, which helped restore solvency and lending capacity, the lender noted.


New changes in financial services from July 1
SBI card reward programme changes
Reward point rules revised for select PhonePe SBI Credit Cards, more transactions excluded from eligibility
RBI introduces anti-mis-selling framework
New rules to prevent mis-selling of financial products. Customers can claim refunds and compensation for losses
TAX
ITR filing due date
ITR-1 and ITR-2 taxpayers for FY26 must file returns by July 31, 2026
HDFC revises airport lounge access
Complimentary domestic airport lounge access linked to spending threshold. Minimum spend: Rs 60,000 in previous quarter
Passport charges revised
Revised from July 1. Changes apply to normal and Tatkaal passports
Free Aadhaar email update
Aadhaar registered email address update via mobile app becomes free from July 1

Apple accuses India of 'copy-pasting' rivals' claims in antitrust investigation

NEW DELHI, REUTERS

Apple has accused Indian antitrust investigators of "copy-pasting" its rivals' claims and failing to properly conduct its own investigation in concluding the US tech giant breached competition laws, calling for the findings to be quashed, regulatory papers reviewed by *Reuters* showed.

The June 25 Apple submission, being reported for the first time, marks the sharpest escalation yet in Apple's fight with the Competition Commission of India (CCI), where Tinder-owner Match and Indian startups are among its opponents. In 2024, CCI investigators privately issued a report saying Apple engaged in "abusive conduct" on the apps platform of its iOS operating system, and wrongly mandated the use of its payment system.

Apple has denied the allegations. It said in its submission that it was a "minuscule player" with an under 6% share of India's smartphone market, and the investigation conclusions were built on rivals' claims rather than on the CCI's independent analysis.

Apple said any "forced alterations to Apple's carefully designed App Store could disrupt its integrated business model," and argued against any penalties and behavioral remedies that could force it to change its approach.

"The imposition of remedies would create regulatory uncertainty and could deter investments in India's digital economy," the company added.

The CCI and its head of investigations did not respond to Reuters queries. Apple also did not respond to requests for comment. Similar arguments by other big companies have failed to sway the CCI. In 2023, Google argued in its antitrust case that CCI's order risked stalling its growth, but the company was later forced to make changes to the way it promoted its Android system, which dominates the Indian smartphone market.

Senior officials from the CCI are due to hold a closed-door hearing with all parties in the case on July 21.

'Copy-pasting' claims

In its submission, Apple drew up tables to argue the CCI investigation team had not done its own analysis and instead indulged in "copy-pasting" many submissions from opponents in the case such as Match, PhonePe and Paytm.

"The DG made no effort whatsoever to independently verify or critically assess these statements, often parroting them verbatim," Apple said.

Apple also said the CCI investigation reports "blindly replicated" a graphic on worldwide consumer spending on mobile apps and games from an EU ruling against Apple in 2024, even though India faced different market conditions.

A *Reuters* review of footnotes of the EU order and Indian investigation report showed both referenced data from Statista. In 2023, Google also argued Indian investigators copied parts of a European ruling. "We have not cut, copy and pasted," CCI said at the time.

'Tata Motors to complete Iveco deal by September'

MUMBAI, PTI: Commercial vehicle maker Tata Motors has secured the majority of regulatory approvals for the Iveco acquisition, and the transaction is likely to be completed by the second quarter of this fiscal, Chairman N Chandrasekaran said on Monday.

The combined revenue of Tata Motors and Iveco at the time of the merger will be around $25 billion with a potential to grow to $35-billion in the next five years, Chandrasekaran said at the second AGM of Tata Motors held here virtually.

"Over the period of the next five years, it has got a significant potential to grow to $35-billion. So there is a lot of growth opportunity, and there are a lot of synergies," Chandrasekaran said.

The proposed acquisition of the Iveco Group marks a significant strategic step forward in advancing the company's global ambitions. A transaction of this scale — spanning multiple geographies — requires a series of mandatory regulatory approvals.

"We have secured the majority of these and are progressing well on the remaining few. We look forward to completing the transaction by Q2 FY27," Chandrasekaran told shareholders.

In July 2025, Tata Motors announced the acquisition of Italian commercial vehicle maker Iveco Group, excluding its defence business, for €3.8 billion.

Chandrasekaran said the Iveco acquisition will enable the company to access advanced powertrain and next-generation technologies and strengthen its long-term innovation pipeline.

VALUE PLAY

Cheaper AI : Rising bills reshape model choices

REUTERS

Silicon Valley's powerful and pricey AI models have been a necessity for businesses looking to future-proof themselves. But now a growing number of tech CEOs are arguing that cheaper options would be crucial for their wider adoption.

Top executives such as Microsoft's Satya Nadella, Palo Alto Networks' Nikesh Arora and Coinbase Global's Brian Armstrong have said smaller, cheaper models can handle a big share of corporate needs. This view is the result of a reassessment within companies that until recently encouraged heavy use of AI tools, often treating rising consumption as a proxy for productivity, dubbed "tokenmaxxing". Now, those bills are starting to bite. Prices of tokens - the units used to measure AI usage - are falling, but the cost of completing a task is rising as AI firms shift from flat subscriptions to usage-based pricing. That is leaving companies with unpredictable and often higher bills as usage per task becomes harder to estimate. Uber, for instance, burned through its entire 2026 AI budget in just four months after employees rushed to adopt AI coding tools, forcing management to cap usage, according to reports.

"Changing the license model caught a lot of people by surprise," said Harold Byun, CEO of BlueRock, a startup that helps companies run AI systems safely. "Immediately after that, we had a number of reports from customers that we're seeing a 20% to 30% spike in terms of over-budgeting."

Businesses fret over huge bills

As companies use AI more, their costs are surging beyond initial estimates as tasks now involve more steps, more data and longer inputs.

Gartner estimates AI coding costs will surpass the average developer's salary by 2028, while a survey by the research firm found three-quarters of executives see tech budgets rising this year, with nearly half of them projecting double-digit jumps.

That has led businesses to embrace cheaper models and turn to routing tools such as OpenRouter, an AI marketplace, as they seek to assign tasks to the most cost-effective system while reserving premium models for complex work such as coding.

Open-source tokens processed on OpenRouter jumped to 65% in June from 34% in January, according to a Citi note.

That should benefit open-source model makers such as China's DeepSeek, which have won wide adoption among startups but struggled to break into large businesses due to security concerns.

"If you want to win enterprise, you should be forward pricing tokens," Palo Alto Network's Arora wrote on X last week, urging AI labs to charge customers today at the lower rates that tokens are expected to command in a few years.

OpenAI appears to be adjusting to the shift. ChatGPT maker has been reported to be weighing significant price cuts, including on token usage, in anticipation of similar moves from rival Anthropic.

However, any shift to cheaper models could hurt their revenue growth, especially as they prepare for potential IPOs.

"There will be a price-war dynamic when it comes to OpenAI and Anthropic as they both duke it out for a 'first to public market' IPO dates," said Christopher Brown, financial adviser in private wealth management at Synovus Securities, which owns shares in several Big Tech companies.

Tech stocks sold off for much of last week as investors reassessed AI valuations as doubts about returns on massive spending were compounded by weak post-IPO show from SpaceX and reports that OpenAI may delay its listing.

Reimagining the role of teachers in the AI era

PAVAN SONI

In Japan and the Nordic countries, where societies are largely egalitarian, teachers top the compensation stack; teaching often remains a last resort rather than a first choice of career in India. Education still holds a sacred status in Indian societies. However, a teacher's salary doesn't help anyone draw that conclusion.

Countless parents challenged the salaries awarded to teachers during the pandemic, when teachers were reduced to teaching online, citing reduced workload. The status is such that no students in a class share teaching as their dream job.

While much social media debate has focused on the impact of AI on employment, little has been done to address the plight of a teacher who's confronted with three existential realities — restless students, ruthless technologies, and clueless markets. How should a teacher go about her job of preparing our future when her very being is in dire straits?

For the longest time, a teacher was supposed to be an expert in well-defined domains. As early as primary schooling, there are subject-specific teachers (micro-specialisation), and these siloes only get entrenched with time. At higher education, faculties seldom cross departmental lines, and at every rung of education a child must make informed choices — arts or sciences, product design or fashion design, circuit branch or non-circuit branch, *ed infinitum*.

This specialisation view of education was useful until teachers were the quintessential apostles of knowledge and the gatekeepers of what was socially and commercially valuable. Their increasing investments in specialisation were richly rewarded by the students seeking that scarce, hard-earned knowledge, as in music and the arts. Call that the 'spotlight' teacher — she knows her subject extremely well but doesn't carry any opinion beyond that narrow realm.

AI-GENERATED IMAGE, FOR REPRESENTATION PURPOSE ONLY

The sharper the focus of that spotlight, the higher the economic returns. Her utility is binary — either she's extremely useful, or entirely useless.

The advent of AI has upended the spotlight game. Even the most rudimentary AI engines can surpass the knowledge (yes, not just information) painstakingly gained by a teacher.

Better still, it can attack a problem from first principles, which a teacher might have lost touch with. So, a spotlight teacher is compelled to outmatch the AI-generated knowledge dished out to her students — a lost cause — and yet appear interesting enough to hold the fort for her allotted forty-five minutes.

Little doubt that AI engines are despised across campuses, not entirely owing to their hallucinations, but owing to those of the gatekeepers. The race between the teacher and the agentic AI does little good for the student who's expected to master topics that are rapidly becoming obsolete. A better role of a teacher is perhaps a 'floodlight'.

The job of illuminating

A floodlight, as against a spotlight, trades focus for span. It illuminates an expansive area in a more inclusive fashion, as against the exclusive manner of the spotlight.

It doesn't shine bright on any specific area, allowing one to take a wider sweep and then hopefully pick up the area of interest.

What does a floodlight teacher look like? Firstly, she's humble enough to admit that her interests aren't necessarily shared by the rest of humanity. And if the students don't reciprocate her enthusiasm about a knotty topic, it isn't their shortcoming. She's modest enough to know that she's an uber student in the guise of a teacher, the one who must still learn.

Secondly, she is curious enough to seek the new and not cling to the old. She is keen to look over her shoulder at new domains and to hone an earnest sense of inquiry into what occupies her students' imaginations. She is keen to explore how AI tools actually work and how to make them an ally in her teaching, rather than keeping them at bay. Her curiosity will then rub off on her students, and, in turn, they will develop a broad perspective on life and career. She's to trade her depth with range, better still, a lucid one.

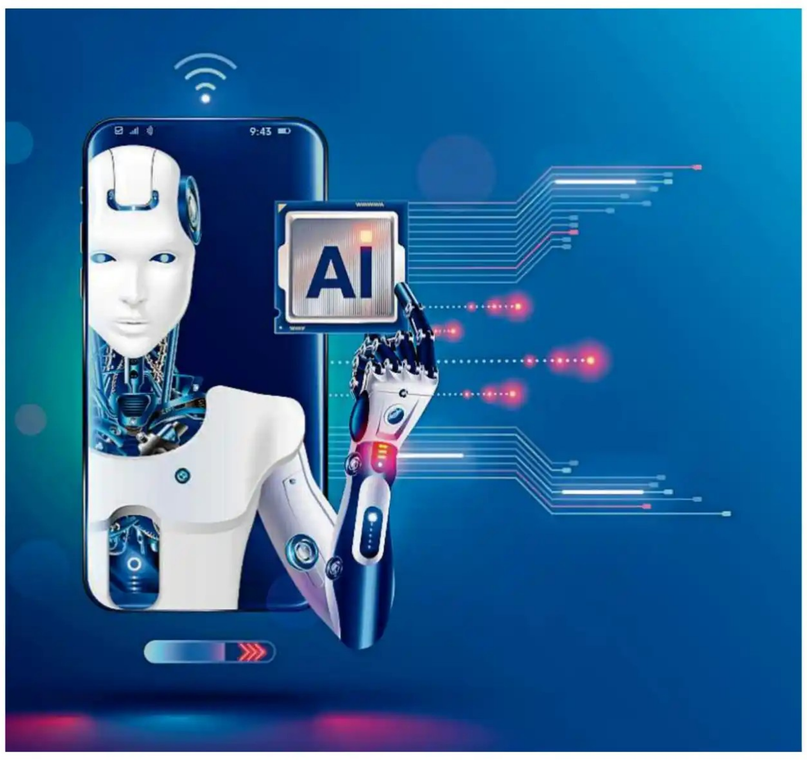
Lastly, she is humble enough to admit she doesn't know and curious enough to get up to speed using the precise sources her students have mastered. She's not dismissive of Gen Z or Gen Alpha and their quirky ways.

She is courageous enough to belong rather than be left behind. She knows that her every action will be watched. More than what she teaches, how she is speaks louder.

A floodlight teacher is courageous enough to chart an unpaved path and serve as a model for students, a fine, emotionally intelligent human being who teaches them to live well. And that's perhaps what she will teach them, really.

The criticality of reskilling in AI

Learning to use AI, theoretically, has limited value. What matters is knowing which tools to use, where, and how, writes Vijay Prakash Srivastava



Around the world, millions of people are concerned about the future of their employment. In our country, unemployment remains a major challenge. Over the past couple of years, several tech companies have announced layoffs, both big and small. The giants like Amazon and TCS are the most talked-about, but hundreds of others go unnoticed.

Firms have always aimed to keep operating costs low and maximise profits. The adoption of technology and digitisation has long supported this objective. However, the biggest game-changer has been AI, which is increasingly seen as a disruptor in the world of work. The CEO of TCS has described the AI wave as a far bigger transformation than a mere technology upgrade. For many, AI represents a direct threat to the workforce, with layoffs often attributed to its growing adoption. The media continues to be abuzz with perspectives on its impact on the job market.

The reality, however, is that AI tools are advancing rapidly and are being adopted across industries at scale. The massive AI Summit held in the national capital earlier this year underscored India's intent to position itself as a leader in the AI revolution.

The IT industry is undergoing one of its deepest structural shifts in decades, with AI reshaping talent needs across the delivery chain. Firms are increasingly asking whether potential employees can define business problems, break them into AI-executable steps, and validate outputs against relevant parameters. As AI permeates all areas of business, AI literacy is no longer optional.

Those who run or manage businesses will need to understand and apply AI in their decision-making. Some may choose to build careers in AI, as demand for AI professionals continues to grow. Others must learn to integrate AI into their existing roles. For instance, a marketing professional can use AI to generate and filter leads, compare profitability across prospects, and streamline campaigns. HR professionals can leverage AI to optimise hiring, evaluate performance, identify employee stress, and design well-being interventions. These are only a few examples. The broader imperative is to become AI-literate—to improve quality, productivity, and outcomes, and to stay relevant.

This is where reskilling and upskilling assume critical importance. While "skill" has long been a familiar term, reskilling and upskilling have gained prominence only in recent decades.

Reskilling refers to acquiring new skill sets—either to transition into a different role or to remain relevant and improve performance. In the context of AI, both motivations are increasingly visible. It is now common to see students and professionals enrolling in AI courses to build careers in this space, while many others are learning AI simply to adapt to a changing landscape.

Upskilling, in contrast, involves strengthening existing skills to take them to the next level. Basic familiarity with AI tools may offer an initial advantage, but as requirements evolve, this is often insufficient—making continuous upskilling essential.

Training and awareness programmes in AI have, in fact, become something of an "in thing" within organisations. NASSCOM has recently launched a national initiative, AI Code Sarathi, aimed at upskilling 1,50,000 developers in AI tools and technologies. Many large firms are also undertaking mass-scale AI capacity-building initiatives.

However, one cannot depend entirely on organisational support. Individual commitment matters even more. The first step is to clearly define one's goal—what level of expertise is required, and what is driving that need. While generative AI dominates current conversations, it is important not to view AI as a single, uniform field.

Over time, AI has evolved into a vast domain encompassing multiple specialisations. For beginners, it is advisable to first understand the fundamentals and then identify areas of interest or relevance. A wide range of introductory resources is available online, many of them free. Beyond that, more focused learning may require enrolling in specialised courses, sometimes with employer support or reimbursement.

Evening and weekend programmes are now widely available in metros and large cities. Some professionals may also choose to take a sabbatical to pursue full-time study. The choice ultimately depends on individual circumstances. However, careful evaluation of courses is essential to avoid poorly designed programmes and inadequate instruction.

When it comes to AI skills, theoretical knowledge alone has limited value. What matters is knowing which tools to use, where, and how. In this domain, skills often carry more weight than degrees or certifications. It is also important to recognise that skill requirements are evolving faster than job titles.

Judgement, agency, and problem-solving remain critical in business. Managers and leaders, therefore, must also learn to leverage AI in decision-making and performance. The growing linkage between AI fluency and faster career progression is becoming increasingly evident.

Finally, joining AI communities can be valuable for staying up to date, exchanging knowledge, and keeping pace with emerging trends.

(The author is a human resource development professional)

BULLETIN BOARD

ITR filing support
ClearTax is hiring an ITR filing support intern in Bengaluru. Students with knowledge of customer support, income tax, and problem-solving can apply by July 23. The stipend is Rs 25,000 /month. Apply at: internshala.com/i/372da0.

Software testing
Apex I-Soft Technologies Private Limited is hiring a software testing intern in Bengaluru. Students with knowledge of testing databases, manual and software testing, and usability testing can apply by July 24. The stipend is Rs 15,000-25,000/month. Apply at: internshala.com/i/5140a5.

Inside sales
Emversity is hiring an inside sales intern who can work from home. Students with knowledge of sales, sales strategy, and sales support can apply by July 24. The stipend is Rs 17,000-26,000 /month. Apply at: internshala.com/i/386902.

Cyber security
Emoolar Technology Private Limited is hiring a cybersecurity intern who can work from home. Students with cybersecurity knowledge can apply by July 24. The stipend is Rs 2,000-3,000/month. Apply at: internshala.com/i/7efee6.

CAREER CORNER

Building confidence that doesn't depend on others

MAULLIKA SHARMA

Early in your career, validation feels like oxygen you need to survive. You start waiting—for the compliment, the recognition, the nod that says you're doing well. A single "good job" can lift your confidence for days, while silence can make you question everything. Without realising it, you begin outsourcing your sense of worth to others.

But here's the uncomfortable truth—if your confidence depends entirely on external validation, it will always feel unstable and momentary.

Recognise this hidden dependency early. At first, seeking validation feels harmless—even necessary. You are learning, you are unsure, and feedback helps you calibrate your work. But slowly, it turns into dependency. You feel good only when praised. You second-guess yourself when you don't receive approval. You hesitate to act without reassurance.

You begin using feedback not just to evaluate your work, but to evaluate yourself. Your emotional state starts depending on others' opinions, moods, and attention—things you cannot control.

External validation is unreliable

External validation is not inherently bad. It plays an important role and can feel wonderful. But it has limitations.

It is inconsistent—even great work often goes unrecognised. It is subjective—different people value different things. For some, accuracy may matter most; for others, speed may trump everything else. It may be delayed and not come when you need it most. And most importantly, it is incomplete. Others rarely see the full context of your effort—only what is relevant to them.

If you rely on it completely, your confidence will fluctuate—sometimes dramatically—based on factors beyond your control.

The real risk isn't wanting validation but linking your self-worth to it—needing it to feel okay about yourself.

When self-worth and approval become intertwined, praise feels like proof of your value, criticism feels like a personal attack, and silence feels like failure. This creates a fragile foundation where your sense of self rises and falls with every external signal. Something as small as a frown on your manager's face can pull you into a spiral of self-doubt.

Look inward: balance it with internal validation

The shift you need to make is not to reject external feedback, but to balance it with internal validation.

External validation says, "Others think I did well." "Others like me."

Internal validation says, "I know I did my best based on what I knew." "I like who I am becoming."

External validation is about recognition from others. Internal validation is about giving yourself that recognition. Both matter—but only one is fully within your control and consistently available to you.

Build your internal anchor

Detaching from validation doesn't mean becoming indifferent to what others think. It means building an internal anchor—a stable way to evaluate yourself. This is easier said than done, but here are a few practical guidelines:

1. **Define your own standards:** What does "good work" mean to you? Is it being thorough, thoughtful, timely, or clear? What defines success on a project—accuracy, speed, or exceeding expectations? When you define your own standards, you're not entirely dependent on others to tell you if you've done well. You have your own yardstick.
2. **Evaluate effort, not just outcomes:** Outcomes can be affected by many factors.
   Ask yourself: Did I prepare well? Did I think critically? Did I follow through properly? Did I give it my best shot? Effort and intent are within your control. Outcomes often are not.
3. **Learn to be comfortable with silence:** Not every good effort gets noticed. Silence doesn't always mean something is wrong. Sometimes, it may just mean people expect that level of work from you!
4. **Accept feedback without internalising it:** Feedback is data—not identity. Take what is useful. Reflect on it. Keep what you like; discard the rest. But don't let it define your self-worth. It is feedback on your work and output, not on your worthiness.
5. **Give yourself credit more often:** Most people wait for acknowledgement to feel accomplished. Instead, make it a habit to recognise what you handled well, what you improved, and what you learned. Self-recognition builds confidence—quietly but steadily.
6. **Silence your inner critic:** Practise self-compassion. Be gentle with yourself. Avoid harsh self-criticism over small mistakes. It is okay to be imperfect. It is okay to have flaws. That is part of being human.

The paradox of detachment

When you stop chasing validation, you often perform better. Instead of trying to "impress," you focus on contributing. You take more thoughtful risks. You communicate more authentically. You are less driven by fear of judgment. And that shift is noticeable.

The goal is not to stop caring about what others think—that would be unrealistic. The goal is to care without depending.

Appreciate praise, but don't rely on it. Accept criticism, but don't internalise it and start doubting yourself. Seek feedback, but don't outsource your self-worth.

Ask yourself: If no one validated my work today, would I still feel satisfied with how I showed up? If the answer is "no," that's not a failure. It is just an invitation to build a stronger internal foundation.

Let external validation just support your confidence—not define it. When your sense of worth comes from within, you don't stop growing; you just stop doubting your right to do so.

(The author is a counsellor and wellness coach)

The rising value of the humanities

UPASANA MAHANTA

Humanities and social sciences have not traditionally been preferred fields of study in higher education in India. Students and parents have often favoured STEM courses because they are associated with better employment opportunities, higher salaries, and greater social status. However, rapid technological innovation and the pervasive presence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) are driving renewed interest in humanities and social sciences.

As digital transformation reshapes our world, it is also shrinking the lifespan of professional skills. As recently as early 2026, several major technology companies worldwide laid off significant numbers of mid- and senior-level employees. The World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs Report 2025 estimates that 39 per cent of workers' skill sets will be outdated by 2030. Notably, the skills considered most valuable for a future-ready workforce include critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity, empathy, written and verbal communication, digital literacy, collaboration, and the ability to present evidence-based solutions — all of which are cultivated through humanities and social sciences education. As routine cognitive tasks are increasingly automated through AI, organisations are seeking individuals who can engage with contested meanings, identify bias, and lead with social and emotional intelligence.

Consequently, career opportunities for humanities and social sciences graduates are expanding. Rather than following linear career paths, graduates are increasingly able to move across sectors, equipped with versatile and transferable competencies. For instance, someone who studies international relations may begin in policy research before transitioning into think tanks, academia, consulting, or media and communications. Such fluid career paths reflect a world of work where adaptability and transferable skills are essential.

Emerging interdisciplinary roles

Technological advancement is not limited to technical execution — it demands informed, socially conscious, and strategically grounded thinking. This has created opportunities in fields such as AI ethics, AI content design, user experience (UX) research, and data governance, all of which require language proficiency, an understanding of human behaviour and socio-cultural contexts, and strong analytical reasoning. Emerging interdisciplinary roles — including AI governance specialists, AI ethicists, consumer culture analysts, behavioural researchers, social data scientists, and AI policy analysts — draw talent from disciplines such as history, sociology, political science, philosophy, public policy, human resources, law, psychology, and economics. Graduates trained in environment and sustainability are also increasingly in demand as organisations work to optimise energy use, predict environmental risks, improve resource efficiency, and make more sustainable business decisions.

This changing employment landscape is also enabling humanities and social sciences graduates to achieve stronger earning potential, challenging the belief that only STEM careers are highly paid. In a recent interview with Fortune, Ravi Kumar S, CEO of Cognizant Technology Solutions (No. 217 on the Fortune 500), encouraged students to develop interdisciplinary skills, noting that companies such as Cognizant are actively recruiting liberal arts graduates. As these professionals progress into specialised and leadership roles, their earning potential can rise significantly, depending on their expertise, adaptability, performance, and experience. Against this backdrop, interest among students, parents, and educators in pursuing degrees in the humanities, social sciences, and liberal arts is growing. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 — with its emphasis on breaking disciplinary silos — has also contributed to reimagining India's higher education ecosystem. Over the past decade and a half, India has witnessed significant growth in private higher education institutions offering innovative programmes, flexible curricula, and experiential learning. Undergraduate options now include combinations such as economics with data analytics, politics with behavioural sciences, journalism with corporate communication, business administration with psychology, design with immersive technologies, global affairs with languages, finance with entrepreneurship, and AI with law. At the same time, public higher education institutions continue to educate a substantial proportion of India's humanities and social sciences graduates.

However, persistent structural challenges remain in ensuring access to quality education in the humanities and social sciences. At private universities, affordability and diversity remain concerns despite scholarships and financial aid. Public universities, while more accessible, require greater financial support, improved infrastructure, stronger industry linkages, and incentives to update curricula.

India needs graduates who are not only technologically proficient but also understand technology's limitations and can shape frameworks for its ethical and responsible use. Achieving this requires strengthening education in the humanities and social sciences while urgently addressing their structural challenges.

(The author is a Delhi-NCR-based professor and dean at a private university)

TEAMS: 48 VENUES: 16 TOURNAMENT SPAN: 39 DAYS

Eustaquio the hero on Canada's red-letter day

Marsch's men book historic last-16 berth

LOS ANGELES, AFP

Stephen Eustaquio's stoppage-time winner fired Canada to a 1-0 win over South Africa on Sunday in the first match of the World Cup knockout rounds, as the co-hosts advance to the last 16 for the first time in their history.

With both sides making their inaugural appearance in the knockout phase, the game appeared to be heading for extra time, before Eustaquio broke South African hearts with a clinical hit from just outside the area.

Canada -- playing in Los Angeles despite being co-hosts, after failing to win their group -- will now face the Netherlands or Morocco in Houston in the last 16 on July 4, as South Africa's World Cup adventure comes to an end.

"We felt like we could wear them down over time, and it took 92 minutes, but we got there," said Canada coach Jesse Marsch.

The manager said his team could have "made life a little easier on ourselves" by converting multiple good chances earlier in the game.

"But obviously the timing of the goal means that the win is incredibly dramatic, and I think the effect that it will have in Canada and the inspiring of people will be immense," he added.

Canada	South Africa
1	0

Before the game, Marsch had talked up the "X-factor" of Canada's star Alphonso Davies, available again after a hamstring injury.

But the Bayern Munich wing-back, who was yet to appear at this World Cup, remained glaringly absent from the starting line-up.

Still, Canada began on the front foot, racking up chances against South Africa's low block.

In the 22nd minute, a pinpoint Eustaquio free-kick found Derek Cornelius wide open on the six-yard line. The Canada center-back utterly mistimed his headed effort.

South Africa threatened sporadically on the counter. But in a frenetic period just before half-time Canada came agonizingly close.

From a corner, Moise Bombito's header was cleared off the line, before Tajon Buchanan's follow-up shot was blocked by goalkeeper Ronwen Williams.

Moments later Khuliso Mudau crashed into the dangerous Richie Laryea, but his penalty appeals were waved away.

That enraged a heavily Canadian crowd, and the jeers grew louder after half-time as South Africa were content to exchange deep passes under little pressure while the clock ticked down.

Just past the hour mark, Canada came close again.

Substitute Niko Sigur slid a through ball to Tani Oluwaseyi whose shot was well-saved by the goalkeeper and looped up toward Jonathan David -- but defender Mbekezeli Mbokazi just got there first and cleared brilliantly.

In the 75th minute Davies finally appeared, to a huge roar, and made an immediate impact.

From the left wing, Davies found Jonathan David who laid the ball to fellow striker -- and no relation -- Promise David, but his shot went wide.

Moments later Davies found Jonathan David again. This time he shot from a tight angle, but was denied by Williams.

In the second minute of stoppage time, Canada finally broke through, from the other flank.

Jacob Shaffelburg raced down the right wing and pinged in a cross which was headed clear to Eustaquio.

The Porto midfielder -- on loan at Los Angeles FC -- chested the ball down and slammed it first-time into the bottom-left corner.

Canada's bench streamed onto the pitch as the stadium erupted in unison, celebrating a historic victory.

Canada's Stephen Eustaquio (centre) celebrates after scoring the winner against South Africa at the Los Angeles Stadium on Sunday. REUTERS

Predator Haaland holds centre stage

DALLAS, REUTERS

On Tuesday
Ivory Coast vs **Norway** (10:30 pm)
On Wednesday
France vs **Sweden** (02:30 am)
Mexico vs **Ecuador** (06:30 am)

Live on Zee5 & Unite8. All timings in IST

Erling Haaland will be the centre of attention in Dallas on Tuesday, but the Ivory Coast will be hoping to highlight some attacking talent of their own when they take on Norway in their World Cup Round of 32 clash.

Norway's one-man wrecking ball has four goals in his two appearances at the tournament and is set to return after being rested in the last group game against France, as were most of the Norwegian first-choice players.

Haaland scored twice against Iraq in Norway's return to the World Cup after a 28-year absence and was at his predatory best as they beat Senegal to secure their progress after only two group games.

Ivory Coast's planning will concentrate on how to stop Haaland in what is sure to be a thorough examination of the West African team's defence, which includes the highly rated Ousmane Diomande, the 22-year-old who is expected to depart Sporting Lisbon for the English Premier League before next season.

But coach Emerse Fae will also be looking to have his side on the front foot and take the game to Norway - and keep Haaland off the ball.

The Ivorians have an exciting array of forward talent, led by teenager Yan Diomande, who is another dominating the club pre-season transfer market speculation, and former Arsenal record signing Nicolas Pepe, who scored twice in their last match against Curacao and is reviving his reputation.

There are nine attacking players in the Ivorian squad that Fae can pick from, including Inter Milan's Ange-Yoan Bonny, who only switched his allegiance from France before the tournament.

"I think that spreading the goals around is a real strength of ours, which we can use to catch our opponents off guard and be a threat from all over the pitch, including players coming off the bench to make a telling contribution," said Fae.

Norway's coach Stale Solbakken said his decision to rest 10 first-team players against France was a "no-brainer" because fatigue had affected several of them.

"This is simple. We did a summary after (their second game against) Senegal, and the entire defence and some midfielders were very affected," he said.

Solbakken will be relieved the weather in Dallas should not be a factor, given the climate cooling in the stadium as the match has a midday kickoff.

With four goals in two matches, star striker Erling Haaland will lead Norway's charge when they take on Ivory Coast in the last-32 clash on Tuesday. AFP

Ecuador look to breach fortress Azteca

MEXICO CITY, REUTERS

Ecuador's late World Cup surge runs into Mexico's immaculate defence and the weight of the Azteca Stadium atmosphere when they face the co-hosts for a place in the last 16 on Tuesday.

Ecuador made the last 32 the hard way, recovering from a 1-0 loss to Ivory Coast by drawing 0-0 against Curacao before reviving their campaign with a 2-1 comeback win over Germany.

That result, secured with goals from Nilson Angulo and Gonzalo Plata, changed the tone of Ecuador's tournament.

A side that was edging towards elimination instead found a route into the knockouts and face the challenge of sustaining that urgency against opponents who have yet to concede.

Mexico topped Group A with three wins, scoring six goals and conceding none, proving they can benefit from the noisy home support at the Azteca that has helped them come into form.

Their defensive record has been the defining feature of their tournament, giving Javier Aguirre's side a platform as they prepare for another high-pressure night.

If Mexico advance, they will return to the same venue on July 5 for the last 16, meaning Tuesday's match provides a knockout test and a chance to extend their run on home soil.

For Ecuador, managing the atmosphere may be as important as breaking down Mexico's defence. An early breakthrough would force the hosts into unfamiliar territory at this tournament.

Failing that, Ecuador may find themselves chasing a match shaped by Mexico's patience and defensive discipline.

The fixture carries considerable weight. The two countries have met 25 times, with Mexico winning 14 including a 2–1 victory in their only previous World Cup encounter in 2002.

One side has found form late. The other has barely been tested. At the Azteca, something has to give.

Ecuador will hope Gonzalo Plata comes to the party against a solid Mexico defence in their round of 32 clash. AFP FILE PHOTO

Africa, the winner of expanded WC

ATLANTA, AFP

Cape Verde have captured the imagination and secured a World Cup showdown with Lionel Messi's Argentina, but they are just part of a success story for African football as the group stages come to a close.

A record 10 African nations qualified for the expanded 48-team tournament and only Tunisia are headed home before the last 32.

Spain, England, Portugal and Brazil are among the pre-competition favourites that have failed to beat African opposition, with Morocco confidently talking up their chances of becoming the first world champion from the continent.

"That shows the quality of African football," said Algerian star Riyad Mahrez.

"When you see nine out of 10 teams going through for the next round in the biggest tournament, that shows a lot."

Cape Verde's fairy-tale has been manna from heaven for FIFA as they defend their decision to increase the tournament by 16 teams - a move critics say is designed to rake in record revenues for football's governing body.

The smallest nation ever to reach the knockout stages of the World Cup, the archipelago of just over 500,000 people, resisted the might of Spain to secure a draw on their tournament debut.

Forty-year-old goalkeeper Vozinha instantly became an internet sensation for his man-of-the-match display against the European champions and now boasts 17 million Instagram followers as a result.

Africa's allocation of qualifiers was doubled from the last World Cup and other than a troubled Tunisia, who conceded 12 goals in three defeats, they have more than merited more representation on the global stage.

"I have been working on the African continent for 15 years now. I see federations becoming better organised, coaches improving and players getting better - Africa keeps progressing," said DR Congo coach Sebastien Desabre. "For me that won't stop because there is still room for growth. I think and hope that an African team will win the World Cup this year or in the coming years. To me, it is just a matter of time."

Morocco, the first African semifinalists four years ago, have proved an inspiration for others on the continent.

The Atlas Lions dominated Brazil for long spells of their opening 1-1 draw and are in confident mood despite a tough last 32 showdown against the Netherlands.

African side Cape Verde are amongst the biggest surprise packages of this World Cup after punching their last-32 ticket in their maiden appearance. AFP

Lighter whistle fuels faster tournament

NEW YORK, REUTERS: A more lenient refereeing style that allows officials to prioritise the flow of the game over minor contact has emerged as one of the defining features of the World Cup, as the knockout phase began.

Referees have been encouraged to avoid whistling for trifling fouls, helping reduce stoppages and increase ball-in-play time in a tournament already marked by high-scoring matches and relentless intensity.

An analysis by NetSI Sport, the research hub specialising in data and sport run by Northeastern University, showed the number of fouls per game this year fell to 24.3 from 27.7 in 2022 and 29.3 in 2018.

Money can't buy success for gulf nations

ATLANTA, AP

Gulf countries like Saudi Arabia and Qatar that poured a fortune into soccer and infrastructure experienced unceremonious exits from the World Cup, proving that big money doesn't guarantee success on the sport's biggest stage.

Saudi Arabia is out at the earliest point. Again. Bottom of a group that included tiny Cape Verde, the third-smallest nation ever to compete on this stage and into the knockouts for the first time.

By signing the likes of Cristiano Ronaldo, Neymar and Karim Benzema as part of a spectacular recruitment drive in recent years, Saudi Arabia has been a major disruptor of club soccer. But on the international stage it still has a long way to go eight years out from hosting the World Cup in 2034.

Qatar, the host four years ago, is also on its way home after just three games, so too are the other gulf nations Iran and Iraq. Compared to the success of African teams at this World Cup, with nine out of 10 advancing to the round of 32, gulf nations are struggling mightily to make their mark.

Qatar made history with its first point at a World Cup, scoring a dramatic late equalizer against Switzerland. But it was another disappointingly early exit.

Saudi Arabia players strike a dejected look after exiting from the World Cup. REUTERS

TEAMS: 48 VENUES: 16 TOURNAMENT SPAN: 39 DAYS

Sweden in line of France's firepower

Dembele, Olise underline the depth in attacking options for Deschamps

NEW YORK, REUTERS

France's glittering attack carried them smoothly through the World Cup group stage, but coach Didier Deschamps still has issues to solve on the left side of his team before Tuesday's Round of 32 meeting with Sweden.

France finished top of Group I with a perfect record, scoring 10 goals in wins over Senegal, Iraq and Norway, with Kylian Mbappe, Ousmane Dembele and Michael Olise giving them arguably the most devastating attacking unit in the tournament.

Yet the left flank has looked less settled. Theo Hernandez has not fully convinced at left back, and Lucas Digne is expected to come into the side against Sweden, bringing more defensive security and a steadier delivery from wide areas.

Further forward, Bradley Barcola is expected to replace Desire Doue on the left of France's attack, with Deschamps looking for more direct running, pace in transition and natural width on the flank opposite the Olise-Mbappe-Dembele axis.

The adjustment would not change France's overall balance but could give them a more coherent left side against a Sweden team likely to defend deep, attack at set pieces and look to expose any space behind France's defence, which has sometimes been caught off guard.

The return of William Saliba in central defence will, at least, bring some stability back. However, any rival will face the same conundrum: however many goals they score, Les Bleus always look capable of scoring one more.

Mbappe, the central figure

Mbappe has been France's central figure again, while Dembele's hat-trick against Norway and Olise's creativity have underlined the depth of attacking options available to Deschamps.

Barcola, Doue, Rayan Cherki, Jean-Philippe Mateta or Marcus Thuram give France the kind of bench power no team can match.

Sweden arrive as awkward opponents rather than spectacular ones. They finished second in Group F behind the Netherlands, opening with a 5-1 win over Tunisia before being torn apart by the Dutch 5-1 and drawing with Japan 1-1.

However, they have enough physical presence and organisation to make the evening uncomfortable if France lose patience.

The knockout stage is a different test from the group phase, when France were able to overwhelm opponents despite occasional defensive lapses.

But the 2022 final against Argentina aside, France have not lost a knockout game at the World Cup since 2014.

Ousmane Dembele (right), with his hat-trick against Norway, showed France aren't solely dependent on Kylian Mbappe to score. AFP

Swedes happy with underdog tag

VANCOUVER, REUTERS: Sweden's players are unbothered that few pundits see them beating France in their World Cup last-32 clash in New Jersey on Tuesday, saying the pressure will be on the French.

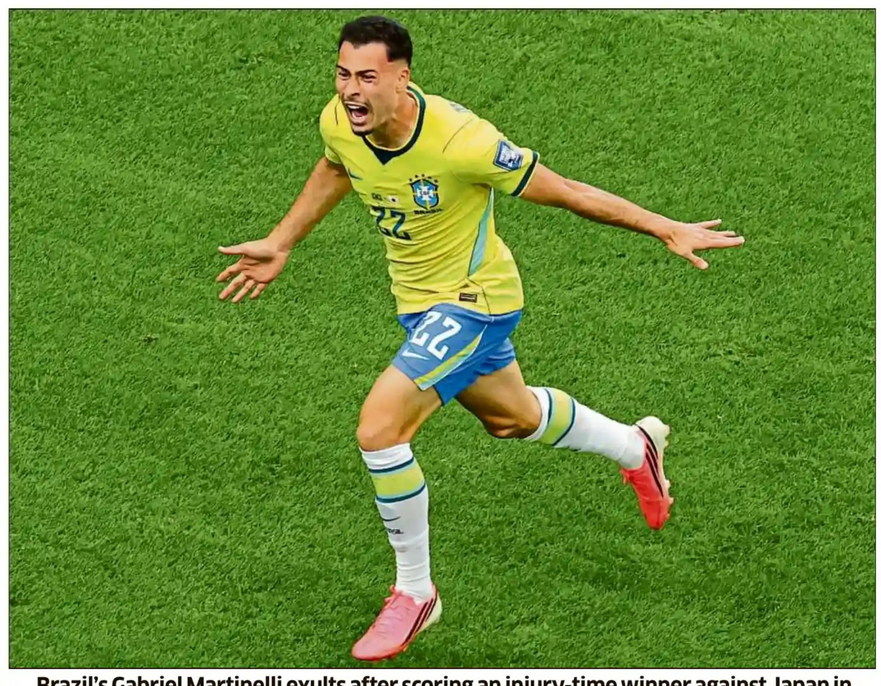
The Swedes trained on Sunday and practiced their penalties ahead of the game, which will likely see them setting up to defend in a low block and trying to hit France on the break.

Viktor Gyokeres

"I don't think so much about whether we're favourites or not, to be honest, I'm mostly thinking that we're going to do what we've been talking about all this year - we're going to do our best, and if we do that, we have a great chance to beat them," midfielder Daniel Svensson told broadcaster SVT.

"They're one of the favourites to win the whole thing, so of course they're favourites (against us). They are my favourites. It's hard to say exactly how big of a favourite they are, but of course they're favourites."

France's feared offence will take some containing, but the Swedes boast a potent forward line of their own, with Viktor Gyokeres and Alexander Isak both capable of scoring against any team.



Brazil's Gabriel Martinelli exults after scoring an injury-time winner against Japan in their last-32 clash in Houston on Monday. AFP

Martinelli, Brazil's saviour

HOUSTON, AFP

Substitute Gabriel Martinelli scored deep in injury time as Brazil beat a stubborn Japan 2-1 on Monday to roll into the World Cup last 16.

Arsenal winger Martinelli struck in the 95th minute in Houston to break Japanese hearts in the most dramatic fashion.

The five-time champions will face either the Ivory Coast or Norway in New Jersey on Sunday after edging a captivating knockout encounter.

Japan midfielder Kaishu Sano scored a classy solo goal after 29 minutes following a Brazil mistake to stun the huge numbers of fans decked out in yellow.

Carlo Ancelotti's men hit back 11 minutes after half-time with a header from veteran Casemiro as Brazil dominated the second period.

Then up popped Martinelli right at the death to settle it and send the Brazil fans wild.

History was against Japan: they had never won a knockout game at the World Cup while Brazil were record five-time champions.

Brazil	Japan
2	1

But this is not a vintage Brazil side, even with Ancelotti at the helm, while Japan have been talked of as dark horses.

With the Brazil fans' drums providing a constant rhythmic backdrop, Ancelotti's side were on top early on in front of a crowd of 68,777.

Images of Neymar on the bench popped up on the big screens, the noise from the Brazil fans going up another notch. Defensive midfielder Sano was booked for crunching in on Vinicius Junior, then Brazilian attacker Matheus Cunha forced goalkeeper Zion Suzuki to turn the ball wide.

Japan, who beat Brazil 3-2 in October in a home friendly for their first victory over the South Americans, then enjoyed a spell in the ascendancy.

Just before the half-hour mark Hajime Moriyasu's team took the lead, and it stemmed from an error by Danilo as he gave the ball away with a sloppy pass.

Sano picked the ball up in the centre circle and got away from the 34-year-old Casemiro -- who was on a booking -- with ease.

Bengaluru down Mangaluru in rain-hit affair

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru Blasters beat their closest rivals on the points table Coastal Kings Mangaluru by eight runs via VJD method in a rain-curtailed DACSS Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 fixture in Hubballi on Monday.

After Coastal Kings posted a competitive 179/6 in their 20 overs, the Blasters were set a revised target of 109 in 11 overs following multiple rain stoppages. When the match was finally stopped with the Blasters at 68-0 in seven overs, they were well ahead of the par score of 60.

With their fifth victory in six matches, the Blasters further consolidated their position at the top of the table with 10 points.

For the Coastal Kings, who had already lost a point with a washed-out match against Hubli Tigers in Mysuru, their second loss in six matches leaves them stuck in second spot on seven points.

In the day's earlier game, Hubli Tigers bounced back in style following back-to-back losses as they comprehensively beat Gulbarga Mystics by 10 wickets.

Brief scores: Coastal Kings Mangaluru: 179/6 in 20 overs (Karun Nair 43, Shreyas Gopal 35, Suraj Ahuja 45) lt to Bengaluru Blasters: 68-0 in 7 overs (Bhuvan Mohan Raju 50 n.o.) by 8 runs via VJD method.

Gulbarga Mystics: 139/6 in 15 overs (Thippa Reddy 51, Manish Pandey 35 n.o.; Vaibhav Sharma A 3-9) lt to Hubli Tigers: 143/0 in 12.1 overs (Mayank Agarwal 81 n.o., Mohammed Taha 57 n.o.).

Bhuvan Mohan Raju

TENNIS WIMBLEDON

Sinner survives opening scare

Sabalenka makes blistering start; Chwalinska bites the dust

LONDON, AFP

Jannik Sinner survived a major scare and a bloodied foot to open his Wimbledon title defence with a five-set victory over Miomir Kecmanovic while Aryna Sabalenka made a blistering start to her bid for a maiden All England Club crown.

Sinner was pushed to the brink of becoming only the third male defending champion to lose in the Wimbledon first round before battling back to win 4-6, 6-3, 6-7 (6/8), 6-2, 6-3 on Monday.

Trailing by two sets to one, the Italian world No. 1 dug deep to win his first five-set match in his last six attempts.

Sinner's gutsy victory in three hours and 28 minutes was all the more commendable after he injured his right foot in an awkward fall that left his shoe covered in blood.

He let out a shriek of pain and was motionless for several moments before gingerly resuming play.

Women's world No. 1 Sabalenka needed only 65 minutes to rout Serbian qualifier Teodora Kostovic 6-2, 6-3.

Sabalenka is a four-time Grand Slam winner but the Belarusian has never reached the Wimbledon final.

Thailand's Mananchaya Sawangkaew returns during her shock first-round win over Poland's Maja Chwalinska on Monday. AFP

In the second round, the 28-year-old meets American McCartney Kessler, who crushed Ukraine's Oleksandra Oliynykova 6-0, 6-0 in just 40 minutes.

French Open finalist Maja Chwalinska crashed to a shock defeat against Thailand's Mananchaya Sawangkaew after suffering an injury on match point. Just weeks after her fairytale run as a qualifier at Roland Garros, Chwalinska was unable to recapture her clay-court magic on the grass of the All England Club.

The Polish 20th seed, beaten by Mirra Andreeva in the French Open final, took the first set against Sawangkaew, but crumbled over the final two sets as the world number 164 clinched a memorable 2-6, 7-5, 6-2 victory.

Elsewhere on opening day, Norwegian 11th seed Casper Ruud -- a three-time Grand Slam finalist -- slumped to a 6-4, 6-2, 7-6 (9/7) defeat against Poland's Hubert Hurkacz. Russia's Andrey Rublev, seeded 12th, was eliminated by compatriot Roman Safiullin in a five-set thriller that went to a last-set tie-break. American fourth seed Jessica Pegula enjoyed a 7-5, 6-3 victory over Darja Vidmanova.

Key first round results (prefix denotes seeding): Men's singles: 1-Jannik Sinner (Ita) bt Miomir Kecmanovic (Srb) 4-6, 6-3, 6-7 (6/8), 6-2, 6-3; 31-Ignacio Buse (Per) bt Emilio Nava (US) 7-6 (7/3), 3-6, 7-5, 6-0; 23-Rafael Jodar (Esp) bt Felix Gill (Gbr) 6-3, 6-3, 7-5; Ethan Quinn (US) bt 14-Luciano Darderi (Ita) 7-6 (9/7), 7-5, 6-2; Hubert Hurkacz (Pol) bt 11-Casper Ruud (Nor) 6-4, 6-2, 7-6 (9/7); 21-Tommy Paul (US) bt Alexandre Muller (Fra) 6-1, 6-2, 6-1; 8-Daniil Medvedev (Rus) bt Marin Cilic (Cro) 6-1, 6-2, 6-4; Michael Zheng (US) bt 26-Cameron Norrie (Gbr) 6-7 (7/9), 6-2, 6-7 (2/7), 6-3, 7-6 (10/4); 16-Learner Tien (US) bt Dalibor Svrcina (Cze) 6-1, 6-4, 6-7 (4/7), 6-3; Roman Safiullin (Rus) bt 12-Andrey Rublev (Rus) 6-4, 6-7 (6/8), 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (14/12).

Women's singles: Jelena Ostapenko (Lat) bt Harriet Dart (Gbr) 6-3, 3-6, 6-4; 14-Naomi Osaka (Jpn) bt Elsa Jacquemot (Fra) 6-1, 7-5; Mananchaya Sawangkaew (Tha) bt 20-Maja Chwalinska (Pol) 2-6, 7-5, 6-2; 4-Jessica Pegula (US) bt Darja Vidmanova (Cze) 7-5, 6-3; 16-Iva Jovic (US) bt Jaqueline Cristian (Rom) 7-6 (7/1), 6-0.

Bengaluru's Rohaan, Jishnu claim top honours

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru's Rohaan Madesh (Peregrine Racing) claimed top honours in the Senior Max Final as the first round of the MECO-FMSCI National Karting Championship concluded at the CoASTT circuit in Coimbatore on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Bengaluru's Jishnu Seralathan (Peregrine Racing) delivered a stunning finish to win the final in the Mini Max category while Rudrapratap Singh Shekhawat (Leapfrog Racing) from Gurugram topped the Micro Max Final.

In the Senior Max final, Arjun Chheda (Crest Motorsport) from Pune enjoyed a great start and once he opened a sizeable lead, he was virtually unchallenged while behind him, Rohaan broke away from a closely bunched chasing pack to eventually finish second, ahead of Eshanth Vengatesan (MSPORT) from Chennai.However, Chheda dropped to fifth after receiving a 10-second penalty for jump start, while Madesh and Vengatesan moved up to first and second while Mumbai's Krish Gupta (Leapfrog Racing) was placed third.

Results: Senior Max: Finals (18 laps): Rohaan Madesh (Bengaluru, Peregrine Racing) (13:44.845), 1; Eshanth Vengatesan (Chennai, MSPORT) (13:45.266), 2; Krish Gupta (Mumbai, Leapfrog Racing) (13:46.883), 3.

Junior Max: Finals (10 laps): Rivaan Dev Preetham (Chennai, MSPORT) (07:35.631), 1; Hamza Murtuza Balasinorwala (Mumbai, Crest Motorsport) (07:39.073), 2; Rehan Khan Rasheed (Chennai, Momentum Motorsports) (07:40.016), 3.

Mini Max: Finals (14 laps): Jishnu Seralathan (Bengaluru, Peregrine Racing) (11:01.908), 1; Rudrapratap Singh Shekhawat (Gurugram, Leapfrog Racing) (11:02.197), 2; Shiv Tummala (Hyderabad, Peregrine Racing) (11:05.058), 3.

Micro Max: Finals (12 laps): Rudrapratap Singh Shekhawat (Gurugram, Leapfrog Racing) (09:46.771), 1; Ayansh Patil (Kolhapur, MSPORT) (09:56.042), 2; Aarav Sureka (Mumbai, Rayo Racing) (09:56.264), 3.

(From left): Rivaan Dev Preetham, Jishnu Seralathan, Rudrapratap Singh Shekhawat and Rohaan Madesh.

Divya joins Carlsen, Anand teams up with Erigaisi

MUMBAI, PTI: Grandmaster Nihal Sarin was on Monday bought by FYERS American Gambits franchise during the player draft here for the Global Chess League (GCL) Season 4.

The tournament, which will feature some of the best chess players in the world, will be held in Bengaluru from September 3 to 13.

The day was headlined by newly-crowned Bullet Chess Champion and Season 2 MVP Sarin emerging as one of the most sought-after names before joining FYERS American Gambits. Alpine APL Pipers strengthened their title defence around Magnus Carlsen and Divya Deshmukh while while Indian legend Viswanathan Anand **(in pic)** moved teams for the first time in the league's history to join Arjun Erigaisi at PBG Alaskan Knights.

Following three seasons across Dubai, London, and Mumbai, the league now heads to Bengaluru at a time when the country continues to produce world champions and elite contenders, growing into a powerhouse.

PBG Alaskan Knights and Ganges Grandmasters signed Anand and Ian Nepomniachtchi respectively.

Team: FYERS American Gambits: Javokhir Sindarov, Nihal Sarin, Daniil Dubov, Bibisara Assaubayeva, Sara Khadem, Marc'Andria Maurizzi.

Alpine APL Pipers: Magnus Carlsen, Anish Giri, Vidit Santosh Gujrathi, Divya Deshmukh, Koneru Humpy, Volodar Murzin.

Ganges Grandmasters: Ian Nepomniachtchi, Levon Aronian, Leinier Dominguez, Polina Shuvalova, Stavroula Tsolakidou, Leon Luke Mendonca.

upGrad Mumba Masters: Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, Shakhriyar Mamedyarov, Vladimir Fedoseev, Carissa Yip, Harika Dronavalli, Bardiya Daneshvar.

PBG Alaskan Knights: Viswanathan Anand, Arjun Erigaisi, Yagiz Kaan Erdogmus, Kateryna Lagno, Nino Batsiashvili, Abhimanyu Mishra.

Triveni Continental Kings: Alireza Firouzja, Wei Yi, Aravindh Chithambaram, Zhu Jiner, Alexandra Kosteniuk, Pranav Venkatesh.

Maresca is Man City boss

LONDON, AFP: Manchester City on Monday unveiled Italian Enzo Maresca as their new manager, taking over from Pep Guardiola.

Maresca, 46, signed a three-year deal that will keep him at the Etihad Stadium until the summer of 2029.

"Manchester City is a club I know very well and to have the chance to manage this team is a brilliant opportunity for me. City is an incredibly well-run football club," said Maresca, who previously coached Leicester in the Championship and Chelsea in the Premier League.

"This will be my third spell here. I know this club, I know the demands and I know the expectations. The quality of the people who work here is what makes it so special, and I want to thank them for showing faith."

Srikanth falls at the final hurdle

FULLERTON (US), PTI

India's Kidambi Srikanth ended his impressive run with a runner-up finish at the US Open Super 300 badminton tournament after going down fighting in three games to Chinese Taipei's Su Li-yang in the men's singles final here.

The 33-year-old Srikanth, a silver-medallist at the 2021 World Championships, recovered from the loss of the opening game to force a decider but couldn't match the pace and intensity of world No. 46 Su, who is nine years his junior.

Srikanth eventually lost 15-21, 21-16, 9-21 in a physical battle that lasted just over an hour here on Sunday.

He had also ended second at the Malaysia Masters Super 500 and Syed Modi International Super 300 last year.

Playing his first final of the season, the former world No. 1 was the quicker off the blocks but a rare error, where his racquet crossed the net during a rally, appeared to disrupt his rhythm as a string of unforced mistakes allowed Su to open up a 7-2 lead.

Kiran Akhade, astride Geronimo, emerged winner of the 130 cm Show Jumping class.

Kiran wins show jumping gold

BENGALURU, DHNS: Kiran Akhade, astride Geronimo, secured first place in the Show Jumping - 130 cm event in the 16th edition of the Equestrian Premier League (EPL) at the Embassy International Riding School here.

Results: Show Jumping Events: 130 cm (SJ7): Kiran Akhade (SRS Newgrange), 1; Prithiv Krishna (Pharrell), 2; Aradhana Anand (Centuri), 3. **60–70 cm (SJ1):** Nihaan G (Klaver, Covai Stable); **80–90 cm (SJ2):** Bhargav Babu Velkur (EIRS); **90-100cm (SJ3):** Ishta Iusta (EIRS); **105–110 cm (SJ4):** Rishab (Sub-junior & junior, EIRS); Moksh Patel (Open, EIRS); **110-115 cm (SJ5):** Barath Manoharan (ECE); **120 cm (SJ6):** Kiran Akhade (URB); 130 cm **(SJ7):** Kiran Akhade (URB).
Dressage: D1: Sub-Junior: Siddharth Dutta (EIRS), **Junior & Open:** Anagha (Zippy); **D2: Sub-Junior:** Hem Kilaru (EIRS), **Junior & Open:** Eshaan Sundaram (EIRS); **D3: Junior & Below:** Eshaan Sundaram (EIRS), **Open:** Arya Channagiri (FSS).

Gouthama FC book final ticket

BENGALURU, DHNS: S Nagaraj, K Vijay Kumar, Sunil Kumar and Deepak R were all on target as Gouthama FC beat Rangers FC 4-1 in penalties after playing out 0-0 in regulation time to march into the final of the KSFA C Division League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Monday.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Results: KSFA C Division: Semifinal: Gouthama FC: 0 (4) bt Rangers FC: 0 (1)
Quarterfinals: Young Gems FC: 1 (Darshith Sanju 51st) bt Reds United FC: 0; Bangalore Phantom FC: 3 (H C Malsawmtluanga 10th, Shiv Charan Mahato 30th+4, Lumintip Wanniang 59th) bt Afghan FC: 2 (M Mallesha 1st, Darshan M 43rd).
KSFA D Division: Bangalore Panthers FC: 1 (Azad Nirane 14th) bt Rush FC: 0; Bangalore Saints FC: 8 (Ajay Bharadwaj 6th, Jenkar SR 15th, 21st, Thilak N 17th, Sreesh 27th, 41st, 42nd, Abhay 36th) bt FCA Bangalore: 0; Ultras FC: 6 (P Rishab 16th, Adithya Arvind Rao 17th, 36th, N Oawa 21st, 40th+1, Soorya 39th) bt Basaveshwarnagara FC: 0; Srirampura Camp Boys FC: 2 (Abhishek A 15th pen, Muthu Pandi V 20th) bt Karnataka Sports Network: 0.

IN BRIEF

Krishna, Arushi win

Krishna and Arushi Severin Helen D Silva won the under-17 boys' and girls' titles in the ninth Karnataka State School Chess Championship held at the Sri Hale Mariamma Sabha Bhavana in Kapu, reports DHNS.

Results: All winners: Boys: U-17: Krishna (4 points); **U-15:** Aarush Bhat (5 1/2); **U-13:** Indrajit Majumdar (6 1/2); **U-11:** Sragvidha S (6 1/2); **U-9:** Gahan C D (6 1/2); **U-7:** Athreya Raam (6).
Girls: U-17: Arushi Severin Helen D Silva (4); **U-15:** Aadhya A Shetty (4); **U-13:** Indusheetala (6); **U-11:** Sanvitha A Shetty (5 1/2); **U-9:** Darshvi Rai (5 1/2); **U-7:** Hanvika V Rao (4 1/2).

Walsh sets 50m freestyle WR

American Gretchen Walsh on Sunday set a new world record in the 50m freestyle, bettering the previous best set by teammate Kate Douglass last week, reports AFP from Paris.

Walsh timed 23.55 seconds to finish first at the Sette Colli Trophy in Rome, Sweden's former world record holder Sarah Sjostrom coming second in 23.81.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

Maharaja T20 Trophy: Shivamogga Yodhas vs Gulbarga Mystics **(2:30 pm)**, Mysore Warriors vs Coastal Kings Mangaluru **(7 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

TENNIS

Wimbledon: Round 1 **(3:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

CRICKET

'Shot selection is very important'

Gavaskar calls for better approach against England

Ireland's Jai Moondra (right) was the pick of the bowlers in their historic 2-0 drubbing of India in the T20I series that concluded in Belfast on Sunday.

SIDNEY KIRAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

India's head coach Gautam Gambhir has hardly concealed his strategy of playing high-octane cricket, especially in T20Is, come what may. In the immediate aftermath of India becoming the first country to successfully defend the T20 World Cup in March, the Delhiite openly declared the era of 160-170 is over, and he wants his team to constantly target 200-plus totals no matter what. And he also said batters will be given the licence and insurance to play the hell-for-leather style.

Sunil Gavaskar

While that ploy works without much fault on flat tracks, especially those in the sub-continent, in other places where there's bounce in the wicket and nip in the air, it could go bust. Like it did against Ireland in Belfast where India were humbled 2-0 by the minnows with many batters getting out to questionable shots.

Indian legend Sunil Gavaskar, during an interaction with select media on Monday, said playing according to the situation is very important in cricket rather than turning up with a preconceived idea.

"You know, in any form of the game and practically in any sport, I think you play the situation, and accordingly you try and play the shots that you think will get you the maximum results. So I think that is probably the need of the hour," said Gavaskar.

"More than anything else, these are all professional cricketers. These are very highly skilled cricketers as we have seen over the years. But, sometimes, you know, it is a temperament where you get a bit carried away. Sometimes, you know, you get a little bit pressured and don't do the things that you normally do or choose the right options.

"Shot selection (while batting) and ball selection (while bowling) are important aspects. And I think it is over here that maybe the Indian team was found wanting in this two-match series, and hopefully lessons will have been learned from that so that we will have a much better performance when we take on England in a couple of days' time."

The series against England, which involves three ODIs, will once again see the spotlight thrust firmly on the veteran duo of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli. While Rohit eased back to full fitness with scores of 16, 48 and 78 against Afghanistan early this month, Kohli missed it due to a hamstring injury. Gavaskar reckoned the two superstars are used to such scrutiny and it's an inevitable part of an athlete's life.

"Look, they have been outstanding players over the last 17-18 years. I think the scrutiny has been on them ever since they started. Because when you are a young player making a debut, the scrutiny is on you, how you handle international pressure, international whether you have the temperament and the taste for international competition, international cricket. So the scrutiny starts from there, and it hardly ever ends as far as Indian cricket is concerned.

"They know how to handle that, they know how to handle the pressure, and they know that the only way is to keep on scoring runs, keep on taking the catches that come their way and affect the run outs."

Note: Watch India tour of England, 1st T20I on July 1 from 10:00 PM IST, Live on Sony Sports Ten 1 SD & HD, Sony MAX.

India failed to adapt: RTD

BELFAST, PTI: India assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate says the T20 world champions are in "disbelief" after being whitewashed by Ireland in the two-match T20 series, conceding that the "outdone and outsmarted" visitors failed to read the conditions.

"I think there is a little bit of disbelief, we have just won a World Cup. We have been outdone, outsmarted by a team which did their basics very well," Ten Doeschate said at the post-match press conference on Sunday.

"Firstly credit to Ireland and secondly the learning for us in terms of being able to adapt to different conditions and against different teams and that is the biggest takeaway from this series."

Gautam Gambhir's roller coaster ride

as India head coach

Since his appointment as the head coach of the Indian cricket team in July 2024, Gautam Gambhir has overseen some memorable wins. But each of those successes has been punctuated by chastening defeats, with the latest being the 2-0 drubbing in the two-match T20I series against Ireland. *DH*'s **Sidney Kiran** takes a look at the major wins and losses India have suffered under Gambhir.

LOW POINTS

● 3-0 defeat to New Zealand at home

When New Zealand arrived in October-November in 2024 for a three-match Test series, India had won a record 18 consecutive Test series at home in 12 years while losing a mere four Test matches! All that dominance was squashed in a manner never seen before as Kiwis swept India 3-0, becoming the first country to whitewash India at home in a Test series involving three or more matches.

● 1-3 away defeat to Australia

After the to New Zealand humiliation, India set sail for Australia a month later. India hadn't lost the two previous series in Australia, something which no country has managed. But it all went south for the Indians as they lost 1-3 after winning the opening Test in Perth.

● 2-0 defeat to South Africa at home

South Africa has been one of the few sides to win a Test series in India and they've always been competitive. But their performances in India in the last decade had been abysmal which the Temba Bavuma set right, sweeping the two-Test series. Gambhir thus became the first coach to suffer two Test series defeats at home.

HIGH POINTS

● 2-2 away draw against England

When India embarked on a five-Test tour of England last June-July, it was the first overseas trip without the seasoned trio of Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and R Ashwin. The largely young but reasonably experienced side went toe-to-toe with England before pulling off an incredible 2-2 draw.

● Champions Trophy and Asia Cup wins

Despite the travails in Test cricket, Gambhir has enjoyed considerable success in limited-overs with the Asia Cup and Champions Trophy triumphs in the Middle East being two of his crowning jewels.

● T20 World Cup win in 2026

Gambhir's greatest success has come in T20Is. The coach transformed an already high-performing unit into a near-unbeatable machine by getting them to play a high-octane brand of cricket. India were the overwhelming favourites to win at home, and they did so in splendid style to become the first country to successfully defend the T20 World Cup crown following a string of bilateral wins.

Head coach Gautam Gambhir (left) and former T20I captain Suryakumar Yadav with the T20 World Cup. PTI

Charani makes her talent speak

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

Sree Charani finished as India's leading wicket-taker in the ongoing T20 World Cup in England. X

People have dreams, but lucky are those who find the right mentors to realise them. Those that guide them in a path that inspires them to scale heights. For India's Sree Charani, it was her uncle Kishore Kumar Reddy.

Kishore is a shy man and speaks very little. But those little words are enough to understand how proud he is of his niece.

"Very proud, but I hope she keeps doing well. Hope she keeps getting better and help India win. Personal milestones don't matter as much but happy if she keeps doing well for India," Kishore tells.

Back in the day, little Charani helped him pass time playing cricket during work breaks in Kadapa. And Kishore, straightaway sensed she could be good at it.

As time went by, Charani, who was juggling athletics and cricket, could have grown into a track and field athlete, as she was doing well in the 3km run.

The 21-year-old, however, grew up to become the best T20I bowler in the world. While Charani's journey to represent the country from the YSR-Kadapa district is inspiring, the skills she possesses belie the times she plays.

In an era built for speed, thrills and experimentation, the left-arm orthodox spin almost feels like a 2000s movie. And for a while, it has felt like a lost art with spinners trying to bowl quick and stay on the defensive. But this is where Charani adds context. Her action, built purely on precision and guile has spun a web, keeping the batters guessing over the last year.

With a lot of tennis ball cricket, her arm-speed rarely changes; but speed through the air varies, which aids deception. Charani also possesses a high release point, which helps her get some bite off the surface.

"She maintains the direction of the seam very well. Once the ball lands on the seam, she gets a bit of bounce. Big difference maker even if she isn't as tall," Andhra women's head coach Shrinivas Reddy tells *DH*.

"Another factor is while delivering the ball, she keeps her body upright, puts her body weight onto the ball, helping speed and direction, eventually helping her with the wickets."

Charani ended the T20 World Cup as the tournament's and India's leading wicket-taker with 14 scalps in five games. The even more fascinating bit is going at 5.85 runs an over.

Having made her T20I debut a year ago at Trent Bridge in England, she now leaves the same country as India's hope in an otherwise disappointing campaign.

Dominant New Zealand complete formalities

NOTTINGHAM (UK), AFP: New Zealand overwhelmed England by 160 runs in the third Test at Trent Bridge on Monday as Ben Stokes' last match in international cricket ended with a thumping defeat.

Victory meant New Zealand won a three-match campaign 2-1 -- just their fourth series success in England in 20 attempts and only the second time they had triumphed after being 1-0 down after their 1999 success in England.

Daryl Mitchell

This was also England's first series defeat at home in three or more Tests since 2012.

New Zealand attack held their steady, with England losing three more wickets before Sunday's close to be in dire straits at 103-4.

And they were in even worse trouble at 116-6 after losing two wickets in five balls early in Monday's play. Nathan Smith had Emilio Gay caught behind for 10 and then Joe Root, one of England's greatest batsmen, was superbly run out for 18 by Henry Nicholls's brilliant direct hit from backward point. Gus Atkinson, and Jamie Smith kept New Zealand at bay with a stand of 75 before Atkinson was lbw for 19 to left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner.

Brief scores: New Zealand: 438 & 288/9 decl bt England: 354 & (O/n: 103/4) 212 all out in 51.2 overs (Ben Duckett 36, Ben Stokes 30, Jamie Smith 60; Nathan Smith 2-64, Zak Foulkes 3-52, Mitchell Santner 2-54) by 160 runs. **Series:** New Zealand won 2-1.
PoM: Daryl Mitchell. **PoS:** Jofra Archer

Indian women qualify for LA Olympics

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Indian women's cricket team qualified for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games as the top-placed Asian team in the ongoing T20 World Cup while the men's squad will have to be the continental leaders in world rankings at the end of this year to clinch a direct berth.

The qualification criteria was unveiled by the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Monday. Cricket is returning to the Olympics after a century and will feature six teams each in men's and women's competitions.

"Australia, Great Britain (through England), India and South Africa have qualified for the six-team women's event after finishing as the highest-ranked teams from Oceania, Europe, Asia and Africa, respectively," the ICC stated.

Stokes, one of modern-day cricket's great disruptors

English all-rounder had the supreme skill to change the course of a match on his own

MADHU JAWALI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Combative, competitive and combustible. That largely sums up Ben Stokes, a once-in-a-generation cricketer who announced his retirement from Tests during the course of the fourth day of the third Test against New Zealand on Sunday. Having already quit ODIs and T20Is, the pace-bowling all-rounder put a full stop to a storied career, marked by heady highs and frustrating lows.

Celebrated for his superhuman feats on the field and censured equally for his off-field "misdemeanours", Stokes' cricketing career was as eventful as it was controversial. That his departure from international cricket preceded a bar brawl in Bristol following a first-Test win at Lord's and the first-innings bowling heroics and a second-innings wicket in the third Test soon after his retirement showed his performances as an exceptional athlete were never far away from his fallibilities as an ordinary citizen.

Sportspersons are expected to conduct themselves, at least publicly, in a way that befits their status as role models, as ambassadors of their country. But not everyone can live up to those standards. This, however, can be tiring for some -- being a prisoner of imposed morality. Stokes was one of them. At the same time, he was also vulnerable, unafraid to talk of his insecurities and mental health issues. He wasn't perfect and never pretended to be one.

Ben Stokes with wife Clare Ratcliffe and son Layton Stokes after announcing his retirement from international cricket on Sunday. REUTERS

Yet Stokes' legacy extends far beyond those off-field incidents.

Easily one of the finest fast bowling all-rounders in the world to have enriched the game, the 35-year-old was instrumental in England enhancing their status as one of the primary cricketing nations.

He was the architect of England's 50-over World Cup triumph in 2019, ending the nation's 44-year wait for an ICC ODI trophy. Three years later, the New Zealand-born cricketer was at the forefront of England's second T20 World Cup victory, playing a critical role in the final against Pakistan and replicating the role he had played at Lord's in the 2019 ODI World Cup final against New Zealand.

Stokes career in numbers

Format	Mat	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100s	50s	Wkts	Ave	Eco
Tests	121	**7228**	**258**	34.58	**58.41**	**14**	**37**	**246**	**31.25**	3.34
ODIs	114	**3463**	**182**	41.22	**95.68**	**5**	**24**	**64**	**42.39**	6.05
T20Is	43	**585**	**52***	21.66	**128.00**	**0**	**1**	**26**	**32.92**	8.39

While Stokes' white-ball numbers are impressive without being eye-popping, his career would be defined by his displays in Tests under pressure, some of them being match-winning performances. On top of that long list would be his epic unbeaten 135 at Headingley, where he lifted England from the brink of defeat to a sensational win. Chasing 359, England were 286/9 when Stokes farmed the strike with Jack Leach, who scored just one run, to pull off one of the greatest run chases in Test history to level the Ashes.

Stokes was always critical to England's fortunes in Tests and his absence stood out both as the leader of the team and the key performer. In the 2025 series against India, his all-round show of 44 & 33 and 2/63 & 3/48 helped England take a 2-1 lead at Lord's, but the next Test in Manchester truly reflected his fighting spirit when he bowled a hostile eight-over spell despite a shoulder injury to separate the doughty centurions, Washington Sundar and Ravindra Jadeja. He had bowled 24 overs for a five-wicket haul in the first innings and had followed it up with 141 in England's first innings. England still couldn't force the win, and Stokes had to miss the next Test at The Oval with a torn shoulder muscle. India won the Test to level the series!

As captain, Stokes also transformed England's approach to Test cricket. Alongside head coach Brendon McCullum, he championed the ultra-aggressive style that came to be described as Bazball. England's new-found style might have eventually shown its limitations, but for a few years it made watching Test cricket a captivating experience. It yielded England a lot of success, but it led to many losses, especially in conditions and against attacks that blunted England's aggressive instincts. Stokes, however, was unwilling to admit Bazball's shortcomings and the willingness to adapt. But then it also reflected a man who was uncompromising and ready to push the boundaries. In short, Stokes was modern cricket's big disruptor.

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